



Labour softens stance in defence manifesto

Kinnock fudge over nuclear pull-out date

Labour will fight the election on a platform of nuclear disarmament only after a "complex discussion" with Britain's allies. Dr David Owen said the Alliance would refuse to support a minority Government implementing such a policy Page 7.

The Labour Party yesterday gave the first signs of a softening of its totally anti-nuclear defence stance in response to widespread condemnation in Britain and overseas. Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, declined to give a deadline for the removal of American nuclear weapons from Britain, although indicating that it would take much longer than a year, and appeared to suggest that a Labour government would continue to accept Nato's nuclear strategy, including the protection for Britain of the nuclear umbrella.

Tomorrow Giving birth to death

This is baby Jamie. He may have Aids, contracted in his mother's womb. He may die. Certainly he will need medical checks all his life. There are others like him. Some already have the disease. Thomson Prentice reports on the new generation of Aids victims.

TIMES SPORT

A new hope Britain's hope in the America's Cup, White Crusader, may live to fight again. The British team has lodged a protest with the international jury against USA, the yacht that beat them on Monday Page 41

TIMES BUSINESS

Record merger Nationwide and Anglia, the third and seventh-biggest building societies in Britain, are to merge next year, the biggest such marriage in the sector's history Page 25

Profits soar Profits at Guinness, the brewing and spirits group, soared 180 per cent to £241 million, helped by a first contribution of Distillers, the whisky group taken over last spring Page 25

Best value Companies recruiting graduates should value their potential as highly as any skills they may have acquired, says Geoff Unwin, managing director of a computer services company, in an introduction to today's five-page General Appointments section Pages 33 to 37

Finns' future A Special Report on Finland looks at the country's tangled relations with the Soviet Union and the changes that appear imminent on its internal political scene. Pages 19-21

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Births, deaths, marriages, Business, Court, Crosswords, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Parliament, Sale Room, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Weather. Includes page numbers for each section.



Defensive faces: Mr Kinnock and Mr Healey at yesterday's press conference in London.

Political high-wire act to prevent electoral damage

Labour's latest defence document marks a significant step back from the party's unilateralist line. Though the document was largely drawn up before Mr Kinnock's trip to the United States, the hostile reception he met there, with Republicans warning publicly that Labour's policies would unravel and ultimately destroy the Nato alliance and Democrats counselling much the same in private, has left its mark.

Mr Kinnock is having to perform a political high-wire act. The multi-lateralist in his shadow Cabinet, including Denis Healey, Roy Hattersley, John Smith, Peter Shore and Jack Cunningham are well aware of the damage being done to electoral prospects by the public perception of the unilateralist defence policy. Since it was first heavily publicized in October, Labour's poll rating has declined steadily and the Conservatives are now back in front - by 6 per cent according to the latest Harris poll.

Mr Kinnock was warned, as he was last week by Nato's supreme commander, General Bernard Rogers, that US public opinion was unlikely to be willing to leave 330,000 troops in Europe if they were unprotected by the nuclear umbrella. And while there was some sympathy for and interest in Mr Kinnock's arguments that Nato should pledge no first use of nuclear weapons and move from the flexible response strategy - involving the threat of nuclear strikes to counter conventional advances - to defence by strong conventional forces alone, it was asked again and again

Silence on Paris terrorist proposal

There was silence from the French Government yesterday after President Mitterrand's astonishing public revelation that France had considered, and would be prepared to consider again, the release of an Arab terrorist imprisoned in France in exchange for the five remaining French hostages in Beirut. M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, has always insisted that the Government would never be prepared to consider such a deal.

Casey quizzed on role of CIA

Mr William Casey, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, testified yesterday on the Iran affair to the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee at a closed session. No public disclosure was made of what he said about the CIA role in the shipment of arms to Iran and the handling of the funds in Swiss banks, increasingly the investigation.

Defence strategy derided as 'dangerous'

The Labour Party's new defence policy was "desperately dangerous" and would leave Britain defenceless in an uncertain world, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, also condemned the Labour proposals. He said: "There is no way that we would give a non-nuclear strategy the time of day." He made it clear that the Alliance would refuse to support a minority Labour government if it insisted on its non-nuclear policy.

Mr Younger, speaking in London, said that a totally conventional strategy would almost certainly mean a return to conscription. He added: "Unilateral disarmament would torpedo the prospect of successful arms talks between East and West. Why should the Russians negotiate seriously when everything is conceded to them in advance?"

British protest to Iran

Whitehall protested to Tehran yesterday after learning through news agency reports that the detained British businessman, Mr Roger Cooper, may face espionage charges (Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

On Monday Mr Akhuzadeh Basti, the Iranian Charge d'Affaires, was summoned to the Foreign Office and warned that Anglo-Iranian diplomatic relations could be sealed down if Mr Cooper's detention continued.

Pretoria tightens screws on press

In a further tightening of the screws of repression, the South African Government is to impose an unprecedented blanket ban from today on all unauthorized reporting of "unrest" - a very broadly defined concept by both local and foreign journalists, which have not been cleared in advance by officials. The Southern African Society of Journalists, the main journalists' union, last night called the new media curbs "pre-publication censorship - the final resort of the world's worst dictatorships."

Lawson U-turns criticized

The Government has been accused of making a U-turn in important areas of economic policy by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. The committee, in a critical report on the Chancellor's autumn statement, said there had been substantial changes of policy on public spending control, reducing the money supply and the role of interest rates and exchange rates.

Dead man 'helped' convict a relative

Evidence from a dead man yesterday helped convict a former Army staff sergeant of killing two people by reckless driving after an evening's drinking. Police were unable to breath-test Albert Gorton after the head-on crash because of his serious injuries. However, tests on the body of his brother-in-law, who was killed in the accident, showed he was on the drink-drive border line.

Record price for Rembrandt's unknown girl

The United States - there was speculation before the sale that, given the increasing prices of works of art, it could top the £8.1 million paid for the world's most expensive painting, Mantegna's 'The Adoration of the Magi', in April last year. The bidding opened at £500,000 and there were several bidders up to £3 million, the New York dealers Feigen being the last to drop out. The final bid was £6.6 million, Sotheby's 10 per cent commission, which both seller and buyer have to pay, being added to the price.

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NEWS SUMMARY

£5.5m award for bog treasure

An Irish businessman and his son should be paid £5.5 million for a hoard of treasure which they found in a bog with the aid of a £100 metal detector, a Dublin High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Blayney, who ruled last July that the early Christian altar set was not state property, said that the money should be paid by the Irish National Museum if it wanted to keep the pieces, found in Co Tipperary in 1980. But Mr Michael Webb, aged 58, of Clonsilla, Co Tipperary, and his son, Michael, aged 22, will have to wait for their money. The museum will be appealing because it says the ruling favours unlawful excavation.

Magazine Sogot to seizure recruit

Magistrates at Newham, east London, yesterday ordered the seizure of 200,000 pornographic magazines valued at more than £250,000 after a day at a warehouse in south-east London. The crown prosecution service will decide on whether to issue summonses.

The magazines belong to Quietlyn, which has had material removed before only to have it returned after magistrates ruled it not obscene.

Dimbleby honoured

Richard Dimbleby, the broadcaster, who died in 1965, is to be commemorated by a plaque in Westminster Abbey, it was announced yesterday.

The plaque records his work, particularly his role as commentator on state occasions and services at the abbey where it will be unveiled next Tuesday at a service attended by Princess Alexandra.

Mr David Dimbleby, his son, said: "Twenty-one years after his death, far from being forgotten as he expected, his reputation has never been higher."

'Panther' plea fails

Peter Sellers's widow, the actress Lynne Frederick (right), can keep her one million dollar damages awarded for the illegal use of "out-takes" from his successful Pink Panther films.



The Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed an appeal by Blake Edwards, the film director, that he was entitled to use clips and discarded pieces of old film to make a new film, *Trail of the Pink Panther*.

Miss Frederick, aged 32, who lives in Los Angeles, claimed that the film was an "insult" to her former husband's name, and he would have "hated" it.

Magazines ban lifted

The next round of the battle between Mr Robert Maxwell and *Private Eye* is to be fought on leading newspapers' shelves after all.

W H Smith and John Menzies said yesterday that they would distribute a special glossy fund-raising issue and W H Smith also lifted an earlier ban on Mr Maxwell's spoof magazine, *Not Private Eye*.

Unicef mourns the children who die needlessly

By Paul Vallely

More children died as a matter of routine, in Bangladesh during the past two years than perished during the entire Ethiopian famine. That is but one example of the "silent emergency" given in the 1987 "State of the World's Children" report issued in London yesterday by Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

The silent emergency is the one in which 280,000 children die needlessly every week from diseases which could be countered by treatments which cost only a few pence per head. In a report launched to mark the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of Unicef, the organization calls for a new international impetus to halve the world's infant mortality rate by 1990 using new low-cost technologies which piggyback upon those existing infrastructures which already exist in the Third World.

"It makes no moral difference that these millions of children did not die in any one particular place at one particular time. But it does mean that their suffering cannot be framed in the viewfinder of a camera," the report says, calling on governments, aid agencies and the news media to mobilize once more the public indignation and compassion aroused by the "loud emergency" of the African famine.

The two main killers in the developing world are diarrhoea and a group of diseases which are preventable by vaccination. Dehydration caused by diarrhoea kills 14,000 children every day. Deaths from measles, whooping cough, polio, tetanus and diphtheria are around 10,000 every day.

Almost 90 per cent of these are easily and cheaply preventable. Dehydration can be cured by administering oral rehydration salts (a mixture of salt, sugar and water in the correct proportions). The other diseases can be warded off by an immunization package which costs less than £3 per head. Big health advances could also be made by the promotion of breast-feeding, improved weaning, weight and growth monitoring and birth spacing. What is lacking in the developing world today is the effort to communicate news of these simple remedies.

The effectiveness of the new low-cost strategy has already been proved in countries like Colombia, Brazil and the Camerouns. But to extend it throughout the developing world requires a demonstration of political will from Third World leaders which goes beyond the lip-service of the past. It also requires a continuing commitment from governments of the industrialized nations.

In fact the 1980s has seen the opposite happen. Despite the somewhat fragile economic improvements in the West, the report says, "for the first time we are witnessing a recovery of growth without a corresponding recovery in either commodity prices or employment levels. Unicef is critical of the whole industry which has been created in the aid world which has led to a mammoth production of complex problem analyses" which have produced either irrelevant or "presented problems as so intrinsically complex that the courage to act is killed."

The Unicef report considers "the main lesson of the last four decades of development effort to be the realization that the only forms of aid which have proved successful are those simple measures which the local people have understood, approved and modified to their own needs rather than dauntingly comprehensive packages by outside experts."

A £75 million package of aid is being put together for the 320 million children under 14 in India by Unicef.

Government is prepared to guillotine teacher Bill

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Government was last night prepared to guillotine a debate on the final stages of the Bill empowering an imposed settlement of the teachers' pay dispute. That would ensure it completes its Commons stages by Christmas.

Ministers' determination not to be deflected from their course was underlined as it became clear that the Opposition is bent on delaying the passage of the controversial legislation. The Opposition plan to keep the House sitting through the night and into this afternoon to wipe out today's business.

Government sources said they would see how successful the Opposition's tactics proved to be before deciding whether to bring in a guillotine motion—a move that requires 24 hours notice and must be preceded by a three-hour debate.

With the committee stage being taken on the floor of the House, MPs were debating some 140 amendments and seven new clauses tabled by the opposition parties.

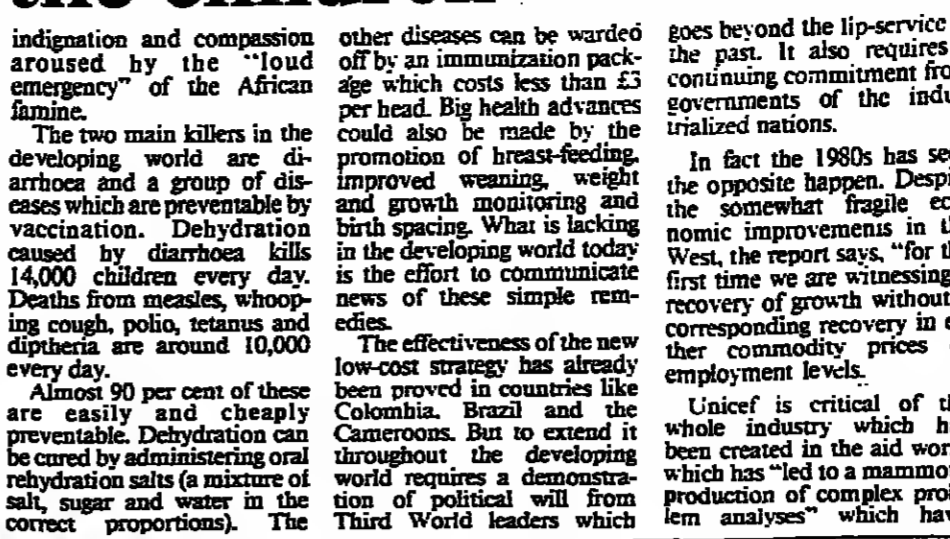
The seven-clause Bill scraps the Burnham pay bargaining committee and replaces it with an interim advisory committee to guide Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, on teachers' salaries and duties.

It also gives him power to override the committee and impose settlements up to 1990 at the least.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour's frontbench education spokesman, accused Mr Baker of seeking to "railroad" the Commons by pushing through the Bill without consultation. "Such haste and lack of consideration might have been justified in time of war or to stop terrorism, but cannot be justified in this highly controversial Bill, which abolishes collective bargaining until 1990 at the least and puts in its place naked ministerial diktat."

But Mr James Pawsey, Tory MP for Rugby and Kenilworth and chairman of the backbench education committee, said Mr Baker had been left with no choice in the light of all the recent disruption in schools and the lack of agreement among the unions. Earlier, 800 teachers had lobbied Westminster as part of the campaign by the National Union of Teachers against the Bill.

They were told that the Educational Institute of Scotland, which has rejected a 16.4 per cent pay and conditions package similar to that put forward by Mr Baker, would support them in their struggle. Mr John Pollock, the general secretary said: "Legislation will spread this dispute far beyond the classroom. Teachers must not be left to fight alone because it is a fight on behalf of the whole of society. There must be a negotiated settlement. That is the only way forward in a democratic society."



Mrs Mary Handley, aged 66, was killed when a gas explosion destroyed this cottage in the village of Wilford on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, yesterday. She died after staggering into her front garden and collapsing on the fence. A spokesman for British Gas said later that it was inspecting a fracture in a six-inch gas main alongside the pavement.

Mr Patrick Shannon, aged 28, an upholsterer on his way to work, was one of the first on the scene. He held a ladder while another man climbed up and looked into the building.

"We saw a figure stagger out and fall down on to the fence. We couldn't get any closer to the house because of the heat of the fire," he said. Richard Stephenson, a newspaper delivery boy, said he could hear a hissing sound and a small like had eggs when he passed the house.

Anti-Aids exchange for needles

By Thomson Prentice

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, is likely to recommend a scheme of free exchange needles for drug addicts, in the fight against Aids, after watching a similar scheme at work in Amsterdam yesterday.

A bus serves as a mobile clinic and tours the city every day trading new needles for old with Amsterdam's huge population of drug users.

The bus also dispenses phials of methadone as a heroin substitute but such a move is not being contemplated in Britain.

The Amsterdam health department brought in the needle exchange last year after a surge of Aids virus cases. A similar crisis has already occurred in some British cities, most notably Edinburgh, where over 1,000 addicts are now believed to be Aids carriers and 25 babies have been born infected.

Mr Walden said it was often claimed that loans acted as a disincentive. Yet in those countries where they were commonplace, such as the United States, Sweden, Germany and France, there was an even greater proportion of young people enrolled in higher education.

Mr Walden told the committee that grants to nearly half a million students were costing the taxpayer £500 million a year.

He went on to attack proposals by the National Union of Students, which he calculated would raise the cost to £800 million a year, with another £1 billion on top of that to pay a "student wage" to all young people aged 16 to 19 continuing in further education.

Mr Walden said he could not believe that the NUS proposals represented the views of students as a whole. He added that he was not a "blind believer" in loans. It was important not to discourage those with a lower income background.

The inquiry into student support is thought unlikely to report until after the next general election.

The tottering coalition government in the Irish Republic was plunged into a minority position yesterday when a backbencher resigned from the Fine Gael parliamentary party.

Mrs Alice Glenn, a conservative Deputy representing Dublin Central, quit the party before moves by Dr Garret FitzGerald to remove the whip from her. She has been at the centre of controversy since describing everyone in favour of divorce as "enemies of the people".

The government's final collapse is likely over the tough measures needed in next year's budget to solve the appalling economic problems facing the country. It is unlikely that the Fine Gael-Labour government will be able to agree on austerity measures.

The government now has 81 votes to 83 for its opponents.

Walkout throws Irish coalition into crisis

By Richard Ford

The discovery of five condoms believed to be about 340 years old in a castle keep has led archaeologists to the conclusion that not only were soldiers in the English Civil War cautious lovers, but that "french letters" really did originate in France.

The condoms, made of fish and animal intestines, were retrieved from a 15th shaft of a garderobe, or lavatory in the keep at Dudley Castle in the West Midlands.

They have been dated back to the 1640s when the Civil War was raging and are, apparently, the earliest known use of sheaths on this side of the Channel.

Miss Stephanie Ratkai, the find supervisor on an archaeological dig at the castle, said yesterday: "It really is a revolutionary discovery. "At first we thought they were parchment, but we sent them to be examined at the Leather Conservation Centre in Northampton and they told us what they were. "I have not come across anything to suggest they were known in this country before the 1680s."

She believes that the condoms would have been used by officers who held Dudley Cas-

Study calls for job guarantee scheme

By Ronald Farr, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Jobs guaranteed by the Government for the long-term unemployed is a feasible and cost-effective way of reducing the "waste and despair" of remaining on unemployment benefit, the Employment Institute said yesterday.

A report by a working group of the institute, an all-party pressure group, said that 750,000 people could be removed from the register if the Government would agree to make a net investment of £1.3 billion to guarantee a year's work, or a place in a training programme, to anyone who had not worked for more than a year. Employers should be offered £2,000 to take on such a worker.

Their report recommended a priority "Building Improvement Programme" to deal with the huge backlog of maintenance and improvement work that needed to be done on public housing, schools, hospitals and roads.

The group rejected the calculation by the Commons employment committee, that a job guarantee scheme would cost about £4.5 billion, and said that, once savings in unemployment benefit and extra tax and national insurance receipts were allowed for, the actual cost would be less than half the Government's estimate.

Present levels of unemployment were described as unacceptable with evidence of more mental illness, broken families and ill-health.

A Job Guarantee for Long-Term Unemployed People (Richard Jackman and others, The Employment Institute, £2.50).

A £12 million reclamation scheme to generate work in an unemployment blackspot was launched yesterday on the site of a derelict steelworks which closed five years ago with the loss of 2,800 jobs.

Within the next five years 400 acres of the once bustling British Steel Corporation's works at Normandy Park, Scunthorpe, Humberside will be renovated and an estimated 1,500 jobs created.

Department of Environment estimate.

Hatton steps down to jeers

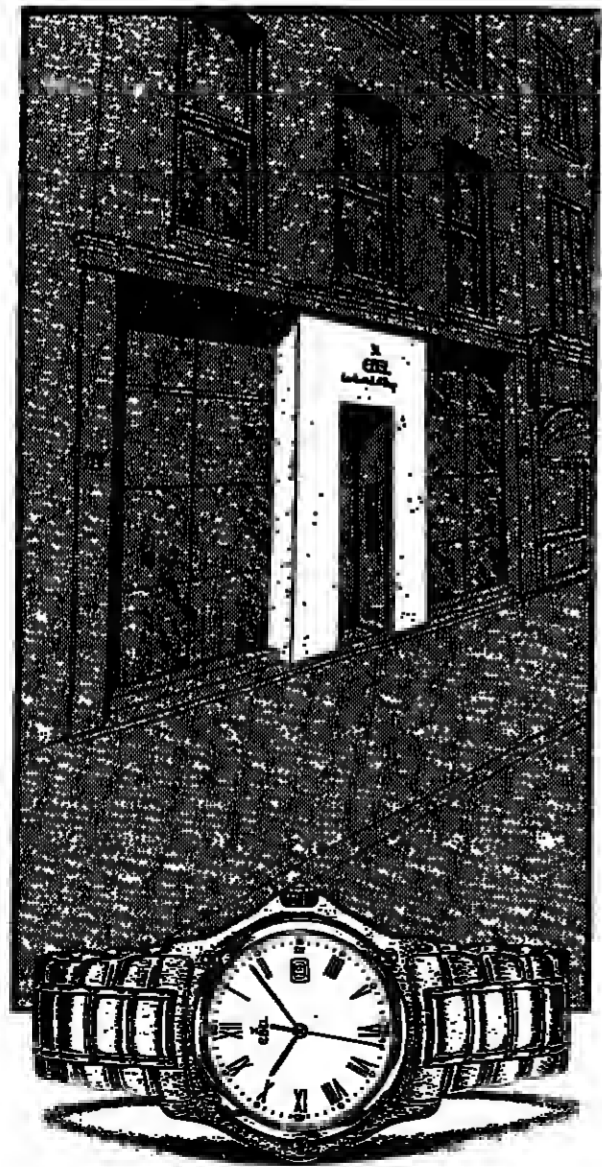
Mr Derek Hatton stepped down as deputy leader of Liverpool City Council yesterday, to jeers from about forty demonstrators in the public gallery.

An egg thrown at Mr Hatton, expelled from the Labour Party for activities with Militant Tendency, splattered behind him. The protesters, from the union Nalco, want the council to rejoin a pay negotiating body.

By the Times overseas

Austria Sch 29; Belgium Fl Frs 50; Canada \$2; Denmark Dkr 200; Cyprus £70 cents; Denmark Dkr 1600; Germany DM 3.00; France F 6.00; W. Germany DM 3.00; Greece Dr 200; Hong Kong HK\$ 1.00; Ireland £Ir 7.26; Italy L 2.00; Japan ¥ 100; Korea ₩ 100; Luxembourg Lfr 40; Madeira Esc 170; Malta Mta 200; Mexico Mx 16; Norway Kr 100; Pakistan Rs 16; Portugal Esc 200; Singapore S\$ 1.00; Spain Ptas 200; Sweden Skr 13.00; Switzerland S Frs 1.00; Taiwan NT\$ 20; USA \$1.76; Yugoslavia Din 700

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Taking care in the 1640s

By Craig Seton

The discovery of five condoms believed to be about 340 years old in a castle keep has led archaeologists to the conclusion that not only were soldiers in the English Civil War cautious lovers, but that "french letters" really did originate in France.

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Advertisement for Royal Mail Christmas cards. Text: "To Uncle Stan and Auntie May, Retired and happy on CAPH: Here's my card with Christmas wishes (Stamp costs only 18p!)"

Letter post to EEC countries now costs the same as first class post in the UK... Makes it easier to greet friends and relatives in Europe this Christmas and New Year!

Royal Mail You can now post letters and cards (up to 20g) for 18p to these countries: BELGIUM DENMARK FRANCE GREECE HOLLAND ITALY LUXEMBOURG PORTUGAL REP OF IRELAND SPAIN WEST GERMANY

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Girl named doctor as man who raped her, aunt tells jury

By Michael Horsnell

A jury heard yesterday of the moment a girl, aged eight, stamped her feet and blurted out the name of the man who she said had raped her.

The distressed girl finally named her attacker to her mother's sister, who had taken her out and bought her some chocolate buttons so that she could question her.

The aunt, aged 32, had been called as a defence witness in the private prosecution against a doctor who has been accused of raping the girl, then aged eight, while she was staying at his house last year.

The aunt, a nurse, told the jury on the third day of the trial at Chelmsford Crown Court, that she had been called in by the girl's mother to question the child about the attack.

On September 24, 1985, the aunt took the girl to a park and sat her on a bench. She said that the assault took place at the doctor's house where she was staying for five days while her divorced mother looked after her epileptic son in hospital.

The aunt told the jury the child then got very upset and that she had to comfort her.

But on that occasion the girl said it was the doctor's son.

aged four, who had raped her. When told the boy would have to be smacked for that she changed her mind and said that she had injured herself.

Later on she said it was a man, but withdrew from blaming the doctor.

Finally, when they got back to the girl's house and the aunt questioned her for the third time, she named the doctor.

The aunt told the court: "She stamped her feet in absolute anger said: 'I told you, auntie. Why don't you believe me? I have told you it was the doctor who did it.'"

"I remember that so clearly. She was so adamant it was him. You can't forget things like that. I can see her stamping her feet just like a little girl does. It was obviously so much in her heart that she had to keep telling somebody. She was sobbing her heart out."

The girl's aunt was at the doctor's house when police arrested him. She said the doctor's wife immediately telephoned the girl's mother and said: "If ever I see her, I will kill her."

Earlier, the doctor's wife told the court that she was unaware of her husband leaving the marital bed during the night when he is alleged to have slipped into the girl's room and raped her.

She told the jury that when her husband was arrested neither she nor he knew what offence he was alleged to have committed.

The doctor said yesterday that, if the girl had been sexually assaulted at his house, then he was the only possible culprit - but nothing at all had happened to her.

He was handed colour photographs which he agreed he had taken of the girl and his son, aged four, in the bath, in which she was shown naked in fully frontal positions, but denied there was any sexual motive for taking them.

The doctor, aged 50, an anaesthetist from Essex, said: "If the girl was assaulted, at night, in my house it would have had to be me. I would have imagined, but I certainly did not assault her."

He told Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the defence, that the only time he went into the room which the girl was sharing with his son was to read the two children a bedtime story.

The case continues today.

Doctor's murder trial

Wife's 'silent accusation'

A doctor demonstrated yesterday how she silently accused her husband, a general practitioner, of trying to murder her.

Dr Madhu Baksh, aged 43, said she was lying in a hospital bed unable to speak because her throat had been cut when her husband, Dr John Baksh, appeared at her bedside.

"He had a bouquet of flowers and was leaning down giving me a look of love," the doctor told the Central Criminal Court.

"He asked me if I could remember there were masked men around my car. I was unable to speak but I shook my head as if to say no. I lifted my finger to show there was one man and I pointed at him. He started to plead."

Dr John Baksh, aged 53, of Gloucester House, Bickley Road, Bromley, south-east London, denies murdering his first wife, Ruby, also a doctor, on New Year's Day, 1983, and attempting to murder his second wife in January this year.

Mr Allan Green, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged that Dr Baksh injected drugs into his first wife while they were on holiday in Spain and got an elderly local doctor to certify

she died from a heart attack.

He wanted to be free to marry Madhu, but faced with heavy debts he allegedly drugged her, slit her throat and dumped her in woods in Kent. Her life was saved when she was discovered by a passer-by. Dr Baksh claimed his wife was abducted by masked men but later allegedly confessed to police.

Mrs Baksh said her husband pleaded with her that she must not say it was he who attacked her.

"He said 'Save me, save my life, otherwise I will go to jail.'"

She confirmed that Dr Baksh wrote to her in prison. "Save me please, I have had enough of punishment," he allegedly pleaded. "I have had such a lesson I will not even park on a yellow line again."

The court has been told that Dr Baksh fell in love with Madhu when she joined the practices he shared with his first wife in Etham and Chislehurst, south-east London. Within two weeks of his first wife's death they were lovers. Later they were married.

Mr Robin Simpson, QC, for the defence, challenged Mrs

Baksh that if she was telling the truth that Dr Baksh had told her he had murdered his first wife, by then she knew that she was marrying a murderer.

"I did not think of him as a murderer after a time. I think he was a human being who had made a big mistake, for which he was ashamed," she replied.

"He said God had forgiven him."

Mr Paul Polanski, brother of the film director, Roman Polanski, said that he had been at a New Year's Eve party at a bar in Torre, Spain, which Dr Baksh and Ruby attended at the end of 1982. The next morning he was told Ruby was dead.

He called the police who asked him to interpret between a Spanish doctor and Dr Baksh.

"The Spanish doctor asked how his wife was the night before - if she had had any illness. He said his wife had said something about not feeling too well, had taken something and had gone to bed. Dr Baksh said he woke the next morning and found her dead."

The trial continues today.

Engineer's £320,000 swindle

The former chief engineer at the North Tees Power Station, was yesterday jailed for five years on 28 charges of corruption, conspiracy and theft.

Teeside Crown Court was told that Kenneth Atkinson, aged 54, pocketed up to £320,000 by taking bribes and swindling the Central Electricity Generating Board. The court made Atkinson, of the Highlands, Brompton, North Yorkshire, criminally bankrupt for £132,000.

Judge Sirovyan, QC, said that the CEBG should have kept much tighter control over the £6 million modernization scheme at the power station.

Atkinson's wife, Frances, aged 39, who conspired with him as stores supervisor, was given a 12-month sentence, suspended for two years.

Geoffrey Varley, aged 61, of Leven Road, Yarm-on-Tees, was jailed for three years. As the power station manager, between 1977 and 1981, he took gifts of home extensions and equipment for his yacht.

Ten contractors who gave cash bribes or provided labour and equipment for Atkinson, which the CEBG paid for, were either fined or given jail sentences from 18 months to three months, some of which were suspended.

Ex-vicar's jail death 'natural'

A coroner told jurors yesterday it was not their duty to judge a clergyman who was accused of 28 indecency offences against children when he died.

The Rev Jan Knos, aged 53, who resigned as vicar of St Michael's and All Angels Church in Hull, died while on remand at Hull Prison on October 26.

Mr Trevor Green, the Humber-side coroner, told the resumed Hull inquest that the law presumed a man was innocent until proven guilty.

Dr Somasundaram Silva, a Home Office pathologist, said Mr Knos was grossly overweight and had two serious heart defects, both of which could have caused sudden death at any time. He said Mr Knos died of a heart attack.

Dennis Johnson, a remand prisoner, shared a cell with Mr Knos and called for an officer when he became ill. He said Mr Knos died before the officer returned 20 minutes later. Mr Alan Heely, a prison officer, admitted the doctor took 30 minutes to arrive.

The coroner said if there had been any lack of care by the prison it did not have any bearing on Mr Knos's death.

The jury returned a verdict of natural causes.

Doctor 'supplied addict'

A Harley Street doctor continued to supply drugs to a jobless heroin addict in spite of pleas from the man's wife to stop, a disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

Dr Ann Dally, a psychiatrist with a practice in Devonshire Place, Westminster, allegedly prescribed methadone, a heroin substitute, although she knew the patient could not afford private treatment.

The addict, described as Mr A, told the General Medical Council hearing that he paid £60 a week for methadone, while he received only £36 a week in social security.

He did not tell the doctor he had lost his job, but when he could no longer pay for his habit he began selling the drugs supplied by Dr Dally. Last year his wife told the doctor he was unemployed.

Dr Dally, aged 60, is accused of serious professional misconduct. She denies abusing her position by prescribing drugs for cash and in one case without conducting proper examinations or monitoring a patient's progress.

She also denies discharging a patient from her care without arranging on-going treatment.

The hearing continues.

Video take-off for airlines

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A breakthrough in micro electronics will soon enable airline passengers to watch television programmes or films on a screen set into the seat in front of them.

Aircraft manufacturers are close to developing an entertainment system which will do away with the big screen showing just one film throughout the aircraft.

Instead every seat will be fitted with a 5in by 4in flat screen, and sound will be supplied by cordless headphones picking up the sound-track through induction coils in the floor. The technology was pioneered for use in military aircraft and was then refined

for use in the next generation of airliners.

Boeing is confident that the new equipment will be ready for installing in their new 150-seat aircraft, the 737, due for delivery in 1992. The aircraft will be powered by a new "inside out" unducted fan engine and packed with the latest technology.

But it is the in-flight entertainment system now under development which is expected to attract the interest of the world's airlines.

Until now the problem of putting a video screen into the back of a seat has been that those available on the open market were too small to enable passengers to see from a relaxed position and too

bulky to fit easily into the seat.

By modifying new display panels on the pilot's instrument panel, Boeing now believe they have achieved a big breakthrough.

Under plans now being finalized it is hoped that each passenger will be able to select up to six different channels on the individual video, which could show programmes beamed direct to the aircraft by satellite.

The European Commission has dropped its threat to take legal action against British Caledonian for breaking the Treaty of Rome competition rules. The commission says it accepts that the airline shares the view that there should be greater competition.



By Gavin Bell
Arts Correspondent

In the unlikely event that James Rainbird forgets his lines in his first big operatic performance tonight, he will enjoy the unusual advantage of having the distinguished composer of the work, Gian Carlo Menotti, on stage with him.

He and the composer were hard at work rehearsing yesterday, after a late unexpected announcement that Signor Menotti will be on stage, in the guise of an old musician, to calm first-night nerves.

The boy, aged 11, a pupil at Kings Horse School, Richmond, Surrey, plays the lead role in the children's opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, at Sadler's Wells Theatre, supported by principal singers of the Royal Opera.

The Italian-born American maestro is confident that his young star will rise to the challenge, although perhaps not with the same authority

Composer will be on stage for boy's debut

displayed by the lead singer of his new opera *Goye* which opened in Washington last month - Placido Domingo.

Amahl is being presented along with the British premiere of another children's opera, *The Boy Who Grew Too Fast*, and the double bill is to be broadcast by BBC Radio 3 on Christmas Eve (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Surrogate mothers could face legal ban

By Jill Sherman

Mothers could be prosecuted if they bear children for other women under legislative proposals issued by the Government yesterday.

The proposal came in a consultative document on fertility services and embryo research, putting forward a wide range of options for both fertility services and embryo research.

The document sets out recommendations of the Warnock Report on Human Fertilization and Embryology which included the setting up of a statutory licensing authority for infertility treatment, the outlawing of non-commercial surrogacy arrangements and proposals to allow research on embryos up in 14 days old.

The Government has stuck to its neutral stance on the Warnock proposals and said it will put forward alternative sets of draft clauses to deal with embryo research which will reflect both the Warnock recommendations and those proposed in Mr Enoch Powell's Unborn Children Protection Bill, which called for all research to be prohibited except that intended to benefit the individual embryo.

Last year amid public concern over commercial surrogacy resulting from the Baby Cotton case, the Government introduced legislation making it a criminal offence to set up a commercial surrogacy agency or to advertise surrogacy services.

The Warnock report originally recommended that non-commercial surrogacy should be outlawed. The Government has now asked for comments on the principle of developing a non-commercial service, and on whether it should be a criminal offence to enter into a surrogacy arrangement on a non-profit basis.

Portfolio Gold - Family to share good fortune

Two readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Mary Zdaniecki, aged 60, a housewife from Belmont in Surrey, has played the Portfolio Gold game since it started in *The Times*.

"I am quite pleased to have won. I like a gamble and I like a win," she said.

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Zdaniecki said: "I'll think about it."

Mrs Marian Turner, aged 48, from Pulborough in West Sussex, said she could not believe her luck. "I added the numbers up over and over again," the former mathematics teacher said.

Mrs Turner said she would spend the winnings on Christmas presents for the family.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.



Mrs Mary Zdaniecki, who likes a gamble



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Tory misgivings on benefit limit for home owners

Several Conservative MPs expressed misgivings about a government proposal to limit the amount of supplementary benefit paid for mortgage interest during the first four months of unemployment, despite two concessions over the original proposal announced 18 months ago.

Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, announced that the reduced benefit would apply only for the first four months of unemployment instead of the first six months, as originally proposed, and steps would be taken to avoid a mortgage interest cap.

The first of the Conservative critics, Mr Richard Alexander, suggested that the Government was a little mean: Mr Robert

MORTGAGES

Government gave £370 million in mortgage interest tax relief to owner-occupiers on incomes over £30,000 a year. Yet now, the Government is insisting on going even to the length of causing homelessness in order to claw back just £23 million from those on the poverty line.

A family on the dot of a husband, wife and two children and a £15,000 mortgage would have to find out of supplementary benefit of £70 a week an extra £17, nearly a quarter of their weekly income.

The couple with a baby and a £30,000 mortgage, like many of those in the South-east, would have to find an extra £32 a week which was equal to 57 per cent of their income on supplementary benefit.

"This is bound to lead to a huge increase in mortgage arrears and repossession of homes by building societies." That had already increased by 700 per cent since 1979 and was likely under this proposal to reach 50,000 a year.

There was nobody in the housing field who supported the proposal, neither the building societies, the finance houses, the local authorities, the National Consumer Council, the Independent Institute of Housing or even Conservative MPs who had the right to see that it would cut across the right to buy.

The proposal would lead to thousands of families in the new year without jobs, without homes and without hope. It should be immediately withdrawn.

Mr Major said that the Government's estimate of the number of families concerned would be 75,000. On eviction and repossession, the Building Societies Association had assumed the Government they proposed to act responsibly and sympathetically.

On the losses concerned, the people who were unable to meet the second half of mortgage interest payments would have to pay off the mortgage. That would be wholly subject to mortgage relief at the end of the four-month period.

Their consultations had been before reference to the SSAC. They had consulted widely before reference.

The Building Societies Association had assured the Government that they would act responsibly and sympathetically. They and other major lenders had not foreclosed during the 23-month miners' strike when mortgage interest was not being paid.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C): Are the Government not being a little bit mean over

Mr Major: She speaks for many beyond this House that we are seeking to strike a fair balance between borrower, lender and taxpayer.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab): Will he give an undertaking that no family will be made homeless as a result of this?

Mr Major: No minister in any government at any time would be so unwise as to give an assurance of that nature.

Mr Nicholas Raynsford (Folham, Lab): This will make life worse for those in arrears. If he had wanted to make savings he might have restricted mortgage tax relief to those receiving it above standard rate. A saving of £320 million could be achieved by that without penalizing anyone on less than £20,000 a year; without penalizing the poorest and increasing homelessness.

Mr Major: That illustrates the innate hostility of the Labour Party to mortgage interest relief. This is a limited measure for limited time, with limited impact.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): While we welcome the substantial modifications he has announced, a number of us remain concerned that the effect of the measure will fall entirely on those buying properties and leave those renting entirely unaffected. Many properties concerned will be former council property. The Government successfully urged people to purchase them. Is he certain that the announcement sits happily with our movement towards a property-owning democracy?

Mr Major: I understand his reservation, but those buying are aggregating a capital gain and there is a clear distinction between purchase and renting.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) said that in constituencies such as his, with 20 per

cent unemployment, people could not afford to repay the mortgage and could not sell to buy off the mortgage.

Mr Major: We have materially modified the original proposals and done everything we can to ensure that there are no possessions or evictions.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall, North, Lab): Families unemployed will be hard hit and penalized by this new proposal. Was the Secretary of State (Mr Norman Fowler) too ashamed to come and make this announcement?

Mr Major: His charm is legendary in this House and he has about as much as does a adder. The remainder of his question is unworthy of an answer.

Mr Keith Raffan (Delyn, C): This will increase anxiety among those out of work when they are most vulnerable, on first being unemployed. The Government has rightly and successfully encouraged home ownership and must accept one result in an increase of expenditure.

Mr Major: We have made substantial changes because of representations.

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) welcomed the reduction of the period and asked for an assurance that the Government would continue to review the proposal to see whether it was in line with their proposals to increase home ownership.

Mr Major: We shall keep this proposal, as all others, under constant review.

Mr Gwilym Jones (Cardiff North, C): This puts a sword of Damocles over the family home. The real cost to the nation will be greater than any saving.

Mr Major: I cannot agree.

Mr Peter Bruniwels (Leicester East, C): Having encouraged about a million people to buy their own homes, will he consider this blow to people losing their jobs through no fault of their own.

Mr Major: Mr Bruniwels is a constant surprise to the House. My decision is a result of reconsideration.

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This proposal is punitive and shameful

At a time when we are spending untold millions when ever the EEC asks for it and £2 billion on an airborne early warning system, which the RAF does not really want, need we do this to those whose cup of misfortune is already overflowing.

Mr Major: It is not unreasonable for people acquiring capital assets to meet a proportion of interest charges after a limited period.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Skye, SDP): In so far as he has shown some doubts, marital break-up, the anxiety of the committee, the partial climbdown is welcome, but the statement is in stark contrast to the trumpeting of the Government wanting to create a property-owning democracy. Under double Tories they can have the right to buy, but not the right to keep.

Mr Major said that the trend to more home ownership continued.

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgmont, C): There are those outside who recognize the need to balance the needs of the individual, of social security and of the taxpayer.

Mr Major: She speaks for many beyond this House that we are seeking to strike a fair balance between borrower, lender and taxpayer.

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Winners and losers in MPs' ballot

Thatcher is said to be unconvinced. Other Cabinet ministers oppose it, principally because it would mean British judges threatening the supremacy of Parliament.

Below the first six a few appear to be sufficiently sensible and uncontroversial that they stand a fair chance of reaching the statute book unopposed.

Mr Michael Martin (Glasgow, Springburn, Lab) is proposing a Bill enabling the Scottish land register to be recorded on computer, microfiche, or something other than paper as the present law stipulates, and Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) wants excessively noisy motor cycle exhaust systems banned. Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) is seeking to extend tree preservation orders to hedgerows.

Two other Bills have broad Government support, but may still fail.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, has indicated his desire to relax the licensing laws, and Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C) is introducing a Bill giving licensees the discretion to



Mr Geoffrey Pattie (above left): Aware of objectors' feelings. Mr John Major (bottom left): Changes will help some claimants. Mr Michael Meacher: Families will be deep in debt.

Steel at top of the list for privatization

Steel should be put at the top of the list of industries to be denationalized during the next Parliament, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during Commons questions.

"I certainly hope we shall make substantial progress in denationalizing during the next Parliament", he told Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C), who had asked if there were any industries which he hoped would not be privatized by the end of that Parliament.

Mr Channon said earlier that in the year before this Government came to office, 52 per cent of his department's total spending was used to support its nationalized industries. In 1986-87, the percentage was more like a tenth.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L): Leaving aside whether the consumer benefits from the move, particularly in the case of British Steel, is it not a pity that a public to a private monopoly, will Mr Channon explain why he has taken the money he has saved and squan-

STEEL INDUSTRY

dered it on this year's accounts squandering? They usually accuse me because they fear my department's budget is not great enough. I do not know what they want. In the past seven years trade and industry's budget has been reduced as we have been able to cut down on wasteful expenditure in nationalized industries. The money has been better used in the economy.

Mr Michael Forsyth (Strirling, C) said that about £900 million must be available for the social services, for instance. This money would otherwise be squandered on inefficient industries under Labour's prescriptions.

Mr Channon agreed. The success of privatization had turned most of the nationalized industries round to be better run

and more efficient. Many were making profits.

Later Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Cleethorpes, C) asked: Do I understand from the minister's answer a few moments ago that proposals will be brought before the House after the next general election, if the Conservative Party retains the confidence of the people of this country, for the privatization of this state industry?

Mr Channon: Yes, I can give that assurance.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): Management and staff of the steel corporation deserve our congratulations on their success in recent times. Will it not impede further progress to have a great debate going on about ownership of the corporation? The most important thing now is to wind down the whole Common Market structure of quotas and subsidies so that the corporation can compete for a great debate going on about ownership of the corporation? The most important thing now is to wind down the whole Common Market structure of quotas and subsidies so that the corporation can compete

Spending on roads praised

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said during Commons questions that in general he favoured private as well as public-sector spending on the infrastructure.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Lib) had asked if it was possible to confirm that he was not of the opinion that private-sector investment in infrastructure projects should be matched by a corresponding decrease in public funding.

Would it not be better, instead of offering that view, to ensure that projects such as the Mersey barrage, where private enterprise had put up about £220 million, should be matched in partnership with public funding.

Mr Channon: In general I am in favour of private-sector as well as public-sector spending.

The House will be aware of the enormous amount of expenditure that has taken place on the infrastructure.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Lords (3): Family Law Reform Bill, committee.

Scottish rating system Rifkind defends changes

The following is a summary of a Commons debate that appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The unpopularity of the domestic rates system in Scotland came about because of its unfairness, its unaccountability and the arbitrary way it applied.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said when moving the second reading of the Abolition of Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill.

In Scotland, an estimated three quarters of a million adults, about 20 per cent of the adult population, because they were neither the owners nor tenants of residential property, were not liable for a system of local taxation.

The Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas Ridley) and the Government as a whole were enthusiastic about a reformed system for England and Wales.

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C): It is precisely because it is a proposal being trailed as a pilot for England and Wales that a number of us are most unhappy and cannot find ourselves able to support it.

Mr Squire said that Mr Squire was misinformed. Mr Ridley had made clear that similar legislation would be proposed

for England and Wales. That would not be dependent on the implementation of the Scottish proposals. By the time it came into effect, the legislation for England and Wales would have been put to the House.

A rebate system would apply, ensuring that those on the lowest incomes would not pay the full community charge.

It would provide an important safeguard for non-domestic ratepayers. No longer would they be subject to sudden, sharp increases in rate bills, something that had been damaging to business of all sizes in Scotland. The Bill had been widely welcomed by industry and commerce.

It created a new system of community charges and the associated arrangements for registration and collection.

The focal point was the personal community charge, the means by which the new system would provide the essential element of accountability. Because the charge was to be payable by everyone aged 18 or over.

"It is the Government's intention that students should be liable for the community charge and that they should be registered throughout their course of study at their term time address."

Students eligible for grant would receive a flat-rate increase to help them.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said that what was being offered was a poll tax: an amount so much a skull across the board. It was brutally clear that the areas that would lose were the deprived housing schemes on the limits of cities, battered inner city areas and areas already disadvantaged.

The Bill is a charter for prosperous suburbs and the only end product will be a thin and ragged cheer from the beleaguered remnants of the Scottish Tory Party.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said that the Government's remedy looked like being worse than the disease.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said a local income tax would make only about 60 per cent of residents liable to payment.

The Bill would need a second vote by 258 votes, 104-154 Government majority, 54.

Pattie promise of early Bill

A Bill to amend the law on copyright will be introduced as soon as the parliamentary timetable permits, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, said during question time in the House of Commons. But he resisted demands to act quickly and some MPs made clear that a tighter copyright law might be disadvantageous to consumers.

He said that he had received representations from MPs, individual companies, industry representative bodies and private individuals, urging the Government to introduce legislation on copyright during the present parliamentary session or inquiring when legislation could be expected.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, L) said that the existing law was inadequate to deal with high technology. There was a need to protect intellectual property, but at present huge corporations could sue for alleged breach of copyright, smaller companies which were out of business before the court case was heard.

Mr Pattie said that one of the White Paper proposals concerned the speeding of the process of patent law and the introduction of new procedures which would make it easier, and therefore less costly, for smaller firms to have access to patent protection.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said that the proposal with respect to intellectual property in broad-based engineering design would endanger far more jobs in the component industries than it would ever safeguard in the initial manufacturing ones, and consumer interests were wholly opposed to any such legislation and therefore it must be against British interests.

Mr Pattie said he was aware of the strength of feeling in representations.

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) said that he understood the reason for the delay, but many firms would be inhibited by any indication of the length of the delay before any changes took place.

Mr Pattie said that the Government was still discussing with industry what the relevant procedures would be.

Mr Robert Key (Salisbury, C) said that the Government should make sure that it was hitting the right target because otherwise small companies might be brought down and the result could be greater import penetration.

Mr Pattie said that this was precisely the sort of point the Government wanted to take into account.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The Conservatives must change their tactics towards the Alliance if they are to win a third election victory, according to Mr Leon Brittan. It is a question that is likely to prove a good deal of Conservative thought over the coming months because the party stands to suffer particularly from any revival in Social Democratic and Liberal fortunes.

There has been a tendency to dismiss the Alliance as a negligible force after the defence Gasco at the Liberal conference. But, damaging though that was, I suspect that the Alliance still has considerable potential to wreck Conservative hopes. Already some revival may be under way.

The Harris survey conducted for TV-AM this week put its strength at 22 per cent. That is still four points behind the 26 per cent of votes that it won at the last general election, and well behind the figures of 30 per cent and more that it was securing in the polls at the beginning of this year.

But it is an improvement on the 17 per cent that was recorded in one poll after the Eastbourne conference, and the Alliance generally tends to do better in elections than such surveys suggest.

Tactical voting still a factor

That is partly because the two Davids are such capable television performers that they benefit particularly from the extra exposure during a campaign, partly because a good many people decide to vote Alliance at the last minute because they do not like the other two parties and sometimes because of tactical voting as well.

This last may be more of a factor than at previous general elections because more people have been conditioned by by-elections to consider voting tactically.

Few people think of the Alliance, however, as a potential government. That is both its weakness and its strength. It still has to counter the taunt of the wasted vote. That is why its leaders have tried so hard to raise public interest in a hung Parliament.

What is the point of scrutinizing its policies in detail, as Mr Brittan suggests? Nobody believes that it will have the opportunity of putting all these policies into practice. That is not why people vote for it now. They may be looking for a moderating influence. Or perhaps they want to protest, or they cannot think who else to vote for.

It puts forward a whole range of policies because that is what the other parties do. If it failed to do likewise it would be confessing before the battle had begun that it was not a serious challenger for power. That would damage its claim to be a substantial political force.

But policy commitments have a different reality for the Alliance than for either the Conservatives or Labour. For both the main parties they are promises of what they would actually do in office. For the Alliance they are either political gestures or bargaining positions in the event of a hung Parliament.

I do not use either term disparagingly. It is legitimate for all parties to make political gestures. They are an indication of a party's inclinations, of how it will seek to use any influence it may have in the future.

It is positively desirable that the Alliance should give at least some indication of what

Sticking points must be known

its sticking points would be if it did find itself holding the balance of power and negotiating with another party.

To examine all the details of Alliance policy in the same way as with the other parties would not only be playing it at its own game. It would also be misleading. That would not be the best way to determine the effect of voting Alliance.

In three-party politics that question has to be put in a double sense. What would be the consequences of a hung Parliament? And how might voting Alliance influence the overall result even if it did not hold the balance of power?

These questions are in fact more relevant than the latest Alliance thinking on pensions or the rates. The difficulty for the Conservatives is how to put them without seeming to indulge in scare tactics.

'Clean needles' Bill to fight Aids is introduced

A private member's Bill which seeks to combat Aids by enabling drug addicts to receive needles and syringes legally was introduced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh East, also seeks to enable complex expecting or intending to have children to be screened for Aids, to make it illegal for employers to dismiss employees with the virus, and to oblige health authorities to provide educational material on how to prevent the disease spreading.

Mr Strang believes he has broad party support for these measures, some of which have already been fore-shadowed in government statements. As number seven of twenty private members' Bills formally introduced yesterday, it stands a reasonable chance of success.

Six consecutive Fridays have been allocated from January 16 for the second readings of these Bills. Only the first or perhaps the second Bill debated on the allocated

becoming law unless it has the support of the Government.

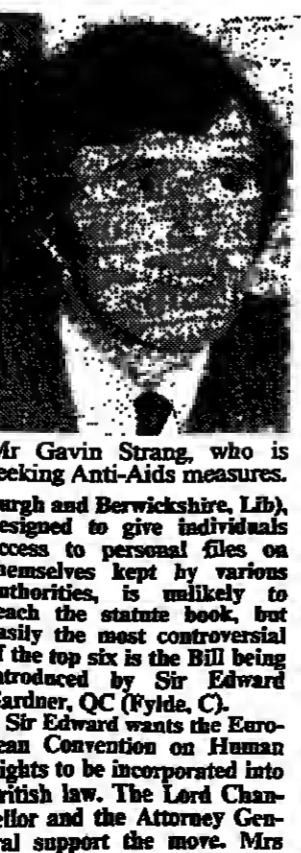
Of the top six, three will almost certainly become law. Mr Peter Bruniwels, Conservative MP for Leicester East, has all-party support for his Bill to make it an offence to sell crossbows to those under 17.

Mr Winston Churchill (Dorset, C) is introducing a Government-backed Bill enabling Servicemen to sue the Crown in personal injury cases.

And Mr Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for the agricultural constituency of North Cornwall, expects the Government to give "fair wind" to a Bill enabling the Agricultural Training Board to diversify into training farmers and farmworkers in non-agricultural skills against the day when land has to be taken out of production to cut EEC surpluses.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall North, Lab) is first in the ballot, but all he will get is publicity for his attempt to give pensioners free television licences.

A Bill being introduced by Mr Archy Kirkwood (Rox-



burgh and Berwickshire, Lab), designed to give individuals access to personal files on themselves kept by various authorities, is unlikely to reach the statute book, but easily the most controversial of the top six is the Bill being introduced by Sir Edward Gardner, QC (Fylde, C).

Sir Edward wants the European Convention on Human Rights to be incorporated into British law. The Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General support the move. Mrs

Thatcher is said to be unconvinced. Other Cabinet ministers oppose it, principally because it would mean British judges threatening the supremacy of Parliament.

Below the first six a few appear to be sufficiently sensible and uncontroversial that they stand a fair chance of reaching the statute book unopposed.

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enlarge on the legislation it has promised to introduce in the next Parliament on the Warnock report.

Of the remaining Bills, Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Labour) is seeking to modify laws relating to houses in multiple occupation, Mr Tony Lloyd (Stratford, Lab) wants to improve national requirements for school meals, and Mr Terry Lewis (Worsley, Lab), wishes to improve public access to meetings and the records of Community Health Councils.

Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) is seeking to give the Police Complaints Authority the power to publish reports in the public interest, while Mr Willie Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab), who is to stand as Labour candidate in the Devon seat of South Hams at the next election, wants to establish a South West of England Development Agency.

Finally, Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C) will try to give courts the power to suspend youth custody sentences, and Mr Allan Roberts (Bottle, Lab) wants to open school governors' meetings to the press and public.

Wapping police cost £4m

The cost of policing the News International plant at Wapping, east London, was estimated to total £4.73 million by the end of October, it was disclosed yesterday.

Lord Cautness, a Home Office minister, also said that 712 police officers were on duty last weekend outside the plant. The dispute started nearly a year ago after 5,500 printing workers went on strike, and were later dismissed.

His announcement sparked off a dispute in the House of Lords over who should pay the police costs.

Lord Mellish, an east London Labour MP for 36 years, said that the dispute left local police stations with as few as six officers at weekends to cope with "proper crime".

"Why should this come out of the police rate? Why should not the people responsible for the dispute pay for it? Why should not people like Murdoch and company, who created the trouble, pay for it?"

Lord Massereene and Fitzgerald said the unions were to blame for starting the dispute, not Mr Murdoch.

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The Reith Lectures

Judge urges amnesty in minor cases to ease criminal court backlog

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An amnesty for prisoners awaiting trial for minor offences was proposed by a High Court judge yesterday as a way of easing the backlog of cases in the criminal courts.

Lord McCluskey, giving his sixth and last Reith Lecture on BBC Radio 4, also recommended slaughtering "a few sacred cows" to cut civil delays, such as ending the traditional "formalized ritual" of confrontation between the two sides in civil proceedings.

Instead the courts should provide more of a "social service", with the judge taking an active role in informally helping citizens resolve their disputes and sort out the issues really needing the "Rush-Knive treatment of a full blown trial".

"No one can be satisfied with the administration of justice as it is in 1986," he said. "The delays, costs and complexities are notorious."

The judge, who was Solicitor General for Scotland in the last Labour government, said the idea of not prosecuting in some cases may be startling, but he said it would

only formalize existing practices.

He explained that only a fraction of offenders were caught and convicted and a significant number of offenders were not brought to trial for a number of reasons, including administrative ones.

The problems of choosing which offences would qualify for amnesty were formidable but not insuperable, Lord McCluskey said.

A starting point was the distinction between crimes which were wicked in themselves and conduct which was punishable only because it breached a statutory regulation.

If, on such a basis, "we amended only the comparatively minor offences we could save much police and court time and could consider redistributing slightly more serious cases to the lower courts, whose docket had been relieved by the amnesty."

He said such action could relieve the backlog of "those cases in which society's interest in securing conviction is sufficiently slight to be traded off against promoting society's

interest in accelerating trials in more important cases".

He also recommended the adoption of the Scottish criminal "110 day rule" under which cases must be brought to trial within that period or the accused goes free.

On the civil front Lord McCluskey called for a number of other measures to cut the backlog of trials. Failure to reduce delays and speed up trials arose from the reluctance to depart from the notion of disposing of cases through the "set-piece battle" in public.

In this, the contestants "battled for the judge's decision in a highly-formalized ritual in which the judge's role is essentially passive, a ritual in which he is the one-man jury".

There was an opportunity for the impartial judge to come early to the case and informally assist the parties to identify the issues; nor to apply firm pressures on them to clear the ground and move to a speedy resolution of matters that have to go to formal trial.

He said formality caused delay and expense.



Lochan Poonwasse, a Trinidadian Father Christmas, proving himself genuine yesterday when Michelle Foster, aged nine (left) and Charlotte Worth, aged eight, from St Clement Danes School, Drury Lane, pulled his beard at the Caribbean Christmas festival at the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, west London. Hundreds of schoolchildren from all over London sang carols and folk songs from the Caribbean accompanied by a steel band (Photograph: Peter Triemer).

Registration check on data users

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Data protection chiefs have started cracking down on data users who have not registered.

Failure to register could lead to unlimited fines.

The first to be checked include health and local authorities.

"I shall be writing to organizations we are unable to trace on the register."

"The object is to sweep up as many as possible of the malingers before November 11 next year when individuals will be able to exercise their right to see personal data about themselves held on

computer."

A survey of more than 2,000 computer users was carried out in April by the Central Office of Information. That showed that, of the larger organizations employing more than 250 people, 94 per cent were aware of the Act and the need to register.

Victory for Britain on satellite TV future

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Ministers responsible for broadcasting in 22 European countries yesterday adopted a new framework to regulate the development of television transmissions across international frontiers.

The decision appeared to deal a fatal blow to efforts by the 12-nation EEC to take for itself the power to regulate transfrontier broadcasting.

Ministers, meeting in Vienna, agreed that the Council of Europe, with its broad membership and commitment to human rights and European cultural values was the most appropriate forum for creating the rules to govern the age of satellite television.

The decision was an important victory for the Home Office, which has strongly opposed EEC efforts to regulate the development of transfrontier broadcasting.

The Council decision is intended to impose a light-handed regulatory touch on international programme exchanges. The regulations will require programmes to conform to standards of taste and decency.

But unlike the regulations proposed by the EEC, there would be no quota system requiring a minimum content of made-in-Europe programmes.

Debt service will start next month

By Michael Dynes

A nationwide scheme designed to help thousands of families struggling with mortgage and credit arrears is to be launched in the new year.

Specialist debt advisers at the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre have been planning for months to introduce the new service, which was in jeopardy because of a shortage of cash.

The Department of the Environment put up £24,000 towards the cost of the scheme in September, contingent on Birmingham Settlement's ability to find another £14,000 from the private sector.

As a result of an appeal for support published as part of The Times Homefront campaign on October 1, the Registry Trust, a non-profit-making company which in the public interest operates the Registry of County Court Judgements, decided to put up the money.

Mr Malcolm Hurston, the trust's chairman, said: "We have been concerned about the growing number of credit casualties, and decided to offer our support after reading about the housing debtline project in The Times."

"Credit is like the motor car. It brings great benefits, but there can also be casualties. The purpose of the housing debtline, which we fully back, is to discover how best to help those casualties."

Mr Peter Houghton, director of the Birmingham centre said: "We are delighted that the Registry Trust has stepped in to fill the funding gap."

The housing debtline will offer advice to people throughout England and Wales who are facing eviction as a result of mortgage, rates or credit arrears. Its objective is to assist debtors meet their financial commitments by helping them to work out their own financial position, negotiate realistic repayment schedules with creditors and thereby avoid unnecessary evictions.

Although the housing debtline is only a pilot scheme, lasting for one year, private and public sector bodies will be monitoring its performance very closely to establish the extent of consumer demand for its services, and whether there is a need to establish a more permanent arrangement.

Fishermen angry over disused oil pipelines

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Government's decision not to insist on the total removal of North Sea oil platforms and pipelines once they are no longer needed has been attacked by the fishing industry as an "outrage".

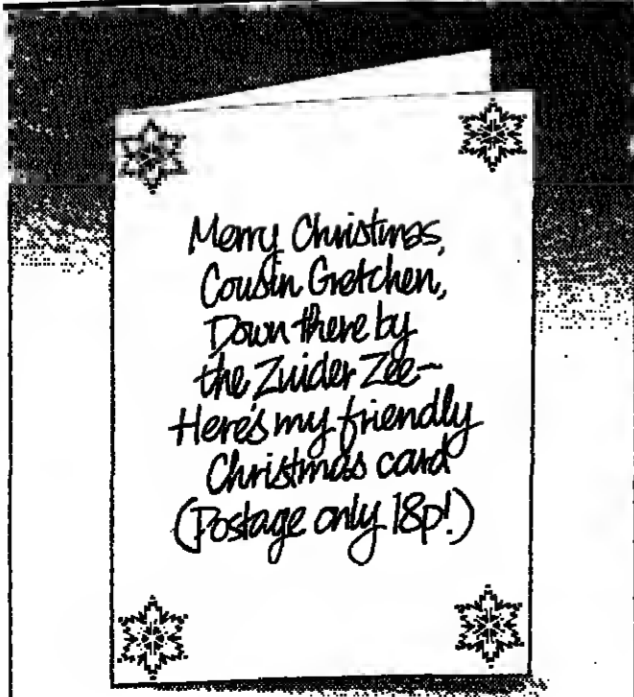
A statement issued jointly by the National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations and the Scottish Fishermen's Federation says that no moral and legal grounds the Government is in breach of its commitments to the industry.

It says that fishermen are being left with spoil fishing grounds and safety hazards in the form of partially removed installations.

The two organizations say that Britain is still legally bound by the 1958 Geneva Convention on the continental shelf, which specifically requires the complete removal of disused offshore installations.

Although the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea envisages the possibility of partial removal, it is not yet in force, and the UK has not signed it.

Oil industry officials regard the fishermen's claims as exaggerated and say there has been no evidence of damage to fishing grounds.



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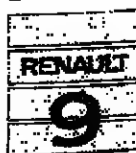
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LABOUR DEFENCE POLICY

Nato's emphasis must switch to non-nuclear arms

The following is an edited version of the Labour Party defence policy statement by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition.

Introduction
When the next Labour government comes to power, we know that we will inherit a formidable range of problems from the wasted years of Thatcherism. Four million unemployed, our industrial base decimated by the destructive fantasies of monetarism, young people without hope, the elderly without basic necessities. It will be a long haul putting the country back on its feet again.

In addition to all this, the next Labour government will also need to address quite fundamental problems in Britain's defence policies and capabilities. The truth is that Mrs Thatcher—who relishes the title *Iron Lady*—is following policies which diminish Britain's defences and, since our national defence posture is and must be inextricably linked with NATO, the credibility of allied defence is reduced too.

In our own national defences, the present government is presiding over a serious decline in the strength of all our armed forces. Had the invasion of the Falklands by the Argentine junta come even six months later than it did, it is doubtful that we could have regained the islands.

And NATO's strategy is also being called into question. As long as the Soviet Union poses a potential military threat to Western Europe, we need a strong NATO. But its reliance on the threat to use American nuclear weapons in response to a conventional attack can no longer be sustained. We know, in the light of Chernobyl and research into "nuclear winter", how the use of nuclear weapons could destroy populations and military forces on all sides. What enemy will believe that the Americans will commit suicide to punish an invader of Western Europe in these circumstances?

NATO was formed 40 years ago when Britain had a Labour government. And it was a Labour foreign secretary, Ernest Bevin, whose energy and drive were instrumental in creating the system of

collective security based on NATO which has contributed to keeping the peace in Europe for a generation.

Britain's own defences now have to be reconstructed. And NATO has to acquire a new strategy and a new vision that will ensure that it is effective in the world of the 1990s and beyond.

Thatcher legacy Our defences weakened

It is a bitter paradox of Britain in the 1980s that the party which claims to be for strong defence will hand over to use a country whose defences will have been critically weakened.

The government has already announced that over the three years 1985/86 to 1988/9 defence spending will be cut by six per cent in real terms. Over the same period spending on non-nuclear equipment will be cut by around 30 per cent. What does this mean in practice?

For the Royal Navy, it means fewer frigates and destroyers—a loss of three, possibly more over the next decade. Because the government cannot afford to replace enough of them, the average life of key ships in the fleet will be stretched from 12 to 22 years. Following a long delay, the government is considering the conversion of merchant container vessels rather than build specialist assault vessels to replace the ageing *Intrepid* and *Fearless*. Because of the run-down of assault vessels the Royal Navy now has no ship dedicated to carrying large numbers of Royal Marines and their helicopters. There have been big cuts in the number of support and auxiliary vessels. There is likely to be a reduction of conventionally-armed diesel-electric submarines from 13 to eight. With the rapid run down of the merchant fleet, there could be virtually no merchant ships left under the British flag by 1995 or even sooner.

For the Royal Air Force, the cutbacks mean that the development contract for the European Fighter Aircraft has

still not been signed, and so the plans to purchase 250 of this aircraft have not been confirmed. An order for the new Staff Target 404 troop-carrying helicopter has been delayed and the decision on purchasing the second order of the Harrier GR5 has been postponed. To ease the budget crisis, Tornado sales to Saudi Arabia have been put before supply to the RAF.

For the Army, substantial cuts in equipment and training programmes have been revealed. According to a document prepared for the Army General Staff these cuts will "result in a smaller, less well-equipped and less well-trained army," hitting the BAOR forces particularly hard. The Army is set to lose a terminally guided anti-tank rocket, a scatterable mine rocket, a battlefield electronic warfare system as well as improvements to existing tanks and, possibly, a new tank.

The paradox of the Tories becoming the disarmers by stealth arises though, not because Mrs Thatcher does not want to defend Britain but because her ambitions for defence policy far exceed anything which Britain under its present economic management can afford. Mrs Thatcher has a nuclear fixation. Her delusions of grandeur directly threaten the defence policy for Britain that is possible, and is vitally needed.

● Quite rightly, we are committed to the air and sea defence of our own island. ● Rightly too, we are committing troops and airpower to the central front in Europe. ● Beyond that we are responsible for the naval protection of the Atlantic Sea lanes. ● We have retained a general responsibility for military action outside the NATO area, most notably in relation to the Falkland Islands. ● But we are also, as about the 20th richest economy in the world, (in terms of national income per head), trying to remain one of the five nuclear weapon nations of the world. By buying Trident we are about to increase the number of targets we could hit with nuclear weapons by up to 14 times, at a cost of at least ten thousand million pounds.

Defence experts, including ministers who have passed through Mrs Thatcher's cabinet, recognize that this is an impossibly broad defence

commitment. Indeed it is obvious that, if there were to be another Tory government, there would have to be an immediate defence review and substantial cuts in our armed forces just to pay for Trident.

and policy disagreements, particularly in recent years. Many Europeans have sought to articulate a constructive response to this situation. Mrs Thatcher, evidently blind to it, has simply sided slavishly with the Americans even if this has meant isolation from the rest of Europe.

Our Falkland commitment must be included in this restructuring. When Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands it was right that Britain took the Islands back and Labour supported the government.

Our armed forces rescued the Falklanders from a fascist tyranny, and we must continue to protect their interests. But Mrs Thatcher's policy of "Fortress Falklands" now costs £1 million a year for every island family. That is a quite unacceptable and unnecessary price to pay to sustain a complete refusal to talk with a democratically-elected Argentine government which has jettisoned its former fascist leaders.

We would seek to limit this drain on our scarce defence resources by negotiating a secure and fair settlement of the Falklands dispute which would take full account of the interests of the islanders.

The most important step a Labour government will take towards restructuring our defences will be to cancel the appallingly expensive Trident programme.

Stronger Navy, Air Force and Army
So we will cancel Trident, and we will decommission the ageing Polaris. In doing so we will not only release money which we will devote to strengthening our conventional defences, but we will also remove the imbalances and distortions that Trident causes within our armed forces. We will, for example, be able to restore the commitment to a 50 warship Navy; we will build the European Fighter Aircraft; and we will restore the standards of equipment and training of the British Army in Germany as part of the strengthening of conventional defences along the central front.

Modernizing NATO
Nato's nuclear strategy must be changed. Reforming that strategy and re-establishing its effectiveness, requires that two conditions be met. Neither is sufficient on its own.

● The reliance on nuclear weapons must be brought to an end.

● Nato's conventional strength must be enhanced.

Ending reliance on nuclear weapons
The "first use" of nuclear weapons in any conflict has always been central to Nato strategy. For the reasons we have given, we believe that strategy to be unworkable. Yet reliance on such a strategy continues to provide the excuse for failing to take the steps needed to enhance conventional strength.

For that reason we believe it is vital that Britain makes a concrete first step towards the implementation of a non-nuclear defence strategy. Without it, the need for change is likely to remain at the level of academic speculation. That is why it is our intention to cancel Trident, de-commission Polaris and remove all American nuclear weapons in this country. The Tory argument that by doing so we will irretrievably alienate the Americans is false. Strengthening Nato's conventional defence and relieving the USA of the obligation to commit nuclear suicide in response to Soviet attack on Western Europe is fully supported by many Americans. Indeed, President Reagan accepted the need for change in Nato strategy in his recent discussions with Mr Gorbachev, when he spoke of clearing American Cruise nuclear missiles out of Europe.

Labour approach
What deters a potential aggressor is the high probability of defeat. Our policy is founded upon the plain fact that in our national defence that probability is diminishing because of Britain's declining conventional forces and because of Nato's over-emphasis on nuclear weapons.

Strengthening Britain's defences
The priority for Britain is to begin to re-structure our defence commitments, and to put money strictly where it is most needed and best used.



effective. Stricter control over arms manufacturers and more "open government" by greater parliamentary scrutiny of procurement will help to reduce costs and allow purchase of a larger number of less expensive weapons.

We must also now reverse the current trend towards the procurement of unnecessarily sophisticated and extremely expensive weaponry.

Trying to make one weapon to do everything perfectly, has all too often meant it does nothing very well and at exorbitant cost.

Reforming military strategy

For too long, our reliance on nuclear weapons has led NATO to neglect vital consideration of military strategy. A strategy which would depend on the firing of nuclear weapons once the front line is breached, is not tenable. As a first step—and one that already has wide support—all nuclear and chemical weapons and their delivery systems should be withdrawn from a corridor 150 kilometres deep on both sides of the dividing line as already proposed in the agreement between the West German Social Democrats and the ruling party in East Germany.

Concurrently, we must lead the move within NATO towards greater defence in depth.

There are three main fields for action to make better defensive use of NATO's armed forces—reserves, barriers and equipment. The most important use of NATO's existing reserves of trained manpower. Second, man-made barriers and obstacles have been reliably estimated to be capable of greatly increasing NATO's defensive capability by up to 40 per cent.

The third main area is equipment. The use of new technologies to improve defensive weapons is better than spending money on weapons which may not work far deep strike against targets which may not be there. Air force and naval reforms would be needed to accompany the changes.

Nuclear blackmail

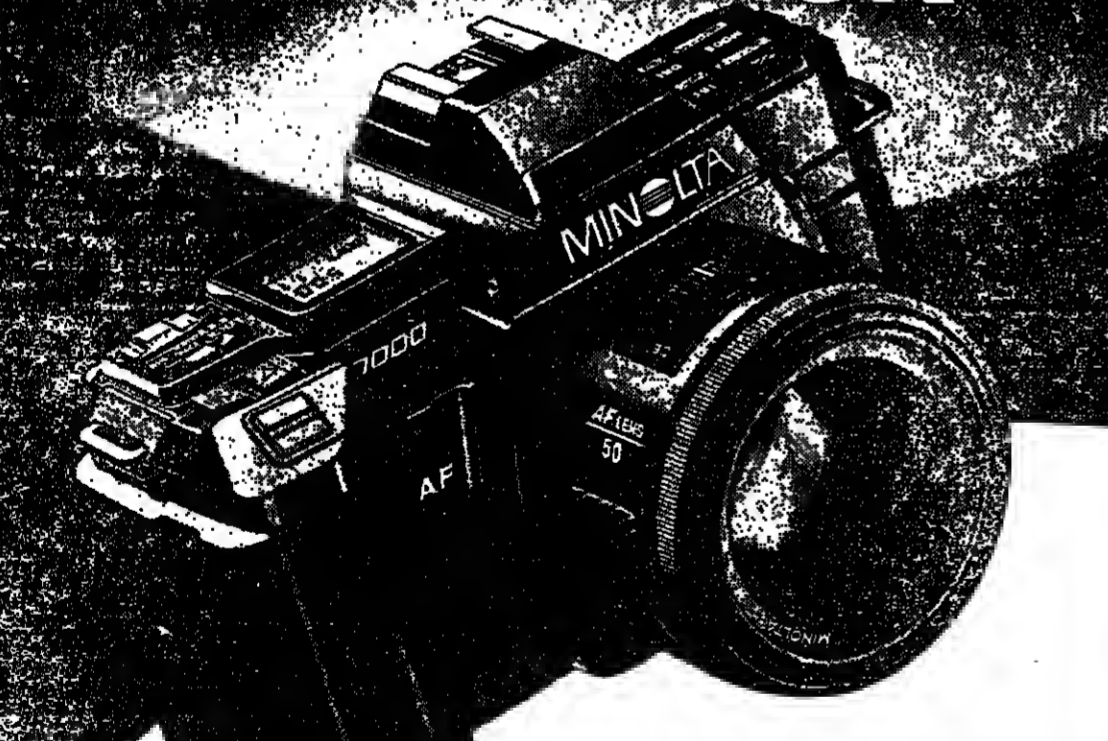
There is a growing consensus among unbiased military specialists that the proposals which we make for a modernized European defence strategy are well founded.

The apologists for nuclear weapons have been thrown onto the back foot. They have always told us that the threat the West faces is of a Warsaw Pact invasion; now they are shifting their ground. A non-nuclear strategy, they argue, will lead to "nuclear blackmail" since even they concede the absurdity of the idea that the Soviet Union might suddenly start hurling nuclear weapons westward.

The notion of "nuclear blackmail" is fallacious. It has long been clear—as the disaster of Chernobyl borningly demonstrated—that the spread of radioactive contamination would make

Continued on opposite page

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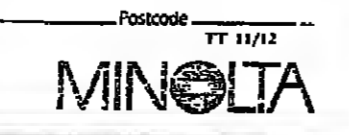
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Nuclear Winter

To diminish further the credibility of NATO's nuclear strategy, new scientific evidence has emerged that paints a fearful picture of the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Any significant nuclear exchange would produce a "nuclear winter" in the northern hemisphere. Hundreds of millions of people would die from famine and the collapse of life-supporting conditions.

In the sure knowledge of what it would do to ourselves, and our country for generations, is it reasonable to believe any longer that either we, or the Americans, would launch the nuclear weapons to halt a Soviet invasion of Europe?

Nuclear escalation

Yet, despite the undermining of NATO's nuclear credibility, the nuclear arms race—and draining of defence budgets—has not slowed. Nuclear weapons are now being developed and refined even further, for fighting and winning a "limited" nuclear war in Europe. This makes it an absolute pre-condition of "victory" for each side to plan to carry out a first-strike attack against the enemies' fixed and land-based missiles.

Such a scenario has added weight both to the argument that NATO strategy is not credible and to the calls for change both in Europe and in the United States.

Labour approach

What deters a potential aggressor is the high probability of defeat. Our policy is founded upon the plain fact that in our national defence that probability is diminishing because of Britain's declining conventional forces and because of Nato's over-emphasis on nuclear weapons.

Strengthening Britain's defences

The priority for Britain is to begin to re-structure our defence commitments, and to put money strictly where it is most needed and best used.

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LABOUR DEFENCE POLICY

Kinnock outlines his strategy

Continued from previous page
the use of nuclear weapons largely self-defeating.

There are, of course, no examples of NATO countries with or without nuclear weapons on their territory — which have in any sense been subject to "nuclear blackmail".

Washington's view

Washington contains more defence analysts than any other capital, and they give more credence to this review of NATO doctrines than opinion in the USA might at first suggest. Successive US Administrations have also understood that NATO is an alliance of sovereign states which depends on shared political values and not on an attachment to a particular military strategy.

The United States has accepted and built on major changes in the past. Because our policies are not aimed at harming American interests or at getting rid of the American conventional forces in Britain, there is no practical reason why they should not work constructively with the policy of modernizing NATO strategy.

The Americans also understand that we are not asking them to dismantle their strategic nuclear weapons. We accept that both the US and Soviet Union will want to maintain a minimum second strike capability as long as the other does. But, since both Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev agreed at Reykjavik that their aim was to secure the abolition of nuclear weapons, we consider that there are grounds for hope that the maintenance of nuclear strike capabilities by the superpowers will be a transient stage.

As we have pointed out, the Americans have already proposed the elimination of all ballistic missiles between 1991 and 1996. This is the very period in which Mrs Thatcher anticipates receiving Britain's Trident ballistic missiles from the United States.

In the meantime, we are seeking a policy of "No First Use" of nuclear weapons by NATO and removal of them from Europe. Indeed, but for the Soviet insistence that Star Wars was somehow linked to intermediate nuclear forces in Europe, the meeting at Reykjavik would have led to the removal of all cruise, Pershing, and SS20 missiles from Europe — the zero-zero option. This shows that Labour's approach, far from being irresponsible, is attuned to the realities recognized by the superpowers. Unlike Mrs Thatcher, the Labour Party is actively promoting the Reykjavik zero-zero option.

Conclusion

Changing NATO strategy and concentrating Britain's resources on effective conventional forces within NATO will provide both Britain and the West with the best prospect for overcoming the present deficiencies in our defence policies and military strategies.

We will need the support of other members if we are to achieve the reform needed. We will pursue this through reasoned discussion and we will remain in NATO, to which we contribute 95 per cent of our defence budget.

The mission of the next Labour government, as it was the mission of former Labour governments over the last 40 years, is to find secure ways to prevent the catastrophe of conflict.

European military chiefs are sceptical of Labour strategy

By Peter Daveyport, Defence Correspondent

Senior military commanders in Europe believe that no matter how much of the savings from a cancelled Trident programme a future Labour government would spend on extra conventional forces they could not seriously alter the adverse balance of forces with the Warsaw Pact or replace the deterrent value of a nuclear capability.

The costs of replacing the ageing Polaris system with Trident is put at £10 billion but a decision to cancel would not automatically release all those funds for conventional spending. Defence sources said last night that £3 billion had already been spent on the programme, including the £400 million on the warhead production plant at Aldermaston, development costs and the ordering of the first submarine, and that with crippling penalty clauses for cancellation a total of £5 billion of the overall costs would have to be regarded as "irrecoverable".

The Labour Party says it will restore the commitment to a 50 warship Navy, build the European fighter aircraft and restore standards of training and equipment of the British Army in Germany, all of which they accuse the Government of neglecting in its determination to proceed with Trident.

Several options would be open to a future Labour government on how to spend the money saved by its non-nuclear policy, according to

defence analysts yesterday.

It could probably equip two more armoured brigades, a total of 300 tanks, on the central front in Germany or give the RAF two more squadrons of Tornados or build around eight of the Type-23 frigates for the Navy. It could also speed up the provision and increase the number of attack helicopters that the Army would like.

But all those would also involve the ongoing costs of recruiting and training the extra men required and providing the support through the lifetime of the equipment. One defence source said: "When you weigh it up Labour may be left with £5 billion over 10 or 15 years to spend if they cancel Trident and when you see what it will actually buy in conventional terms it does not add up to very much."

An earlier suggestion for an anti-tank trench filled with explosive slurry along the front in Germany has been dropped from the document issued yesterday and instead it called for a series of man-made barriers and obstacles which it claimed would increase Nato's defensive capability by up to 40 per cent.

Critics of the plan however condemned it as totally impractical both politically and physically.

Some defence analysts yesterday also raised the question of whether a future Labour government would actually fulfil its intention of spending Trident savings on con-

ventional forces if it were to find itself under pressure from its back-benches to divert funds instead into health, education or employment measures.

Within the ranks of senior Nato military commanders in Germany there is deep concern at the effect of Labour policies should they be enacted; one senior officer said it was "inconceivable" that the United Kingdom could stay inside the alliance with a non-nuclear policy that also ejected American nuclear forces from the country.

Even analysts who believe that the decision to get rid of Britain's independent nuclear deterrent would not have any significant military effect say that the political consequences within Nato, and in particular with the Americans, would be "disastrous".

In the document yesterday Labour said the implementation of its non-nuclear policy would not go ahead without "complex and thorough discussion" and that it would irretrievably alienate the Americans.

However only last week General Bernard Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe said that the implementation of such policies would lead to the withdrawal of the 350,000 US troops stationed in Europe and the Nato defence ministers meeting in Brussels for the first time included a rejection of unilateral disarmament in their final communique.

Kinnock defence plan 'has desperate danger'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour's new defence policy faced an immediate and sustained onslaught from the opposition parties with Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, asserting that it would leave Britain "defenceless in an uncertain world" and mean that a

Labour government would have to reintroduce conscription.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, made clear that the Alliance would refuse to support a minority Labour government if it insisted on its non-nuclear policy.

Mr Younger, at a Conservative Central Office press conference, said that Labour's plan was desperately dangerous for Britain and the Western Alliance, and would greatly threaten the future of Nato. He described Mr Kinnock's trip last week to the United States as a "mission impossible".

The Labour leader now knew the strength of feeling across the political spectrum about his proposals to expel US nuclear forces from Britain.

"All of us want to see reductions in the size of nuclear arsenals across the world. Experience shows that the only way to achieve that is from a position of strength.

"Unilateral disarmament would torpedo the prospect of successful arms talks between East and West. Why should the Russians negotiate seriously when everything is conceded to them in advance?"

Mr Younger said Mr Kinnock's only response to the outcry against his defence policy was to cover his ears. Meanwhile Labour's deputy leader, Mr Roy Hattersley, crossed his fingers and shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey shut his mouth. But the storm of protest would not die down.

"Can each of your western European allies, and indeed informed opinion throughout the Western Alliance, all be wrong and Mr Kinnock right? This new Labour policy is a desperately dangerous policy for Britain and for the Western Alliance on which our future peace and freedom rests."

Mr Younger said it was sad that Mr Hattersley and Mr Healey could not bring themselves to speak for Britain at this important time.

"The cornerstone of Britain's security since 1949 has been our membership of the Nato alliance. Indeed there has been a consensus of opinion between Conservative and Labour governments over this issue."

He forecast the American people would not tolerate leaving their troops in Britain without nuclear protection, even if Mr Kinnock said he would allow British troops to remain in West Germany without such protection.

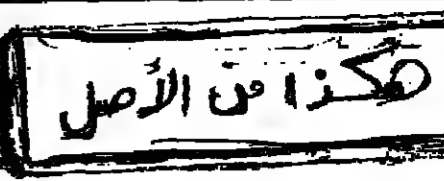
Conventional forces played and would continue to play a vital role in Nato strategy, but on their own they could not remove the threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr Younger said the idea that the use of Trident money on conventional forces could significantly redress the large conventional imbalance between Nato and the Warsaw Pact was illusory. Mr Younger said that a totally conventional strategy would almost certainly mean conscription and Labour must face up to that. It would be necessary for Britain to match the size of the Warsaw Pact's conventional forces.

Dr Owen said: "There is no way that we would give a non-nuclear strategy the time of day."



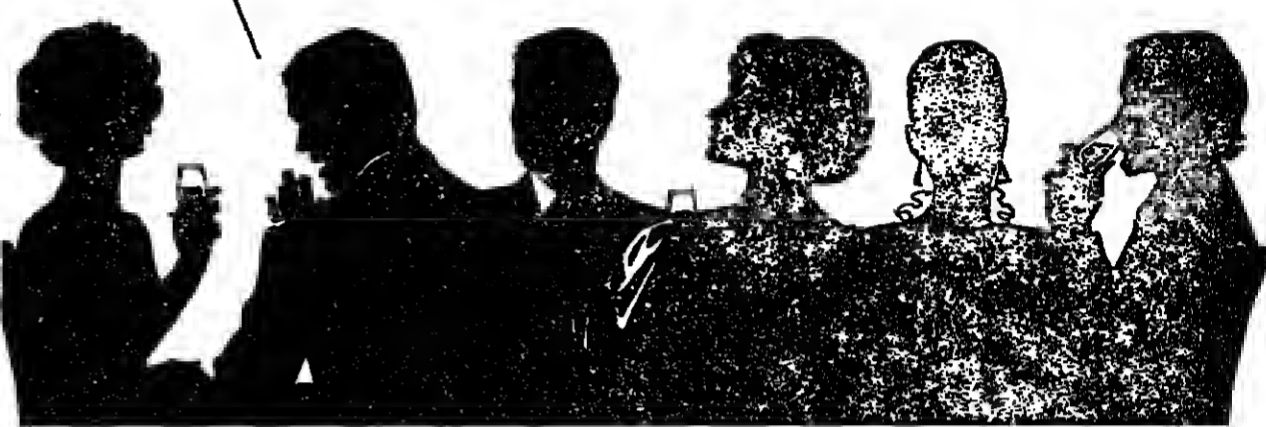
Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, responding to Labour's plans (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)



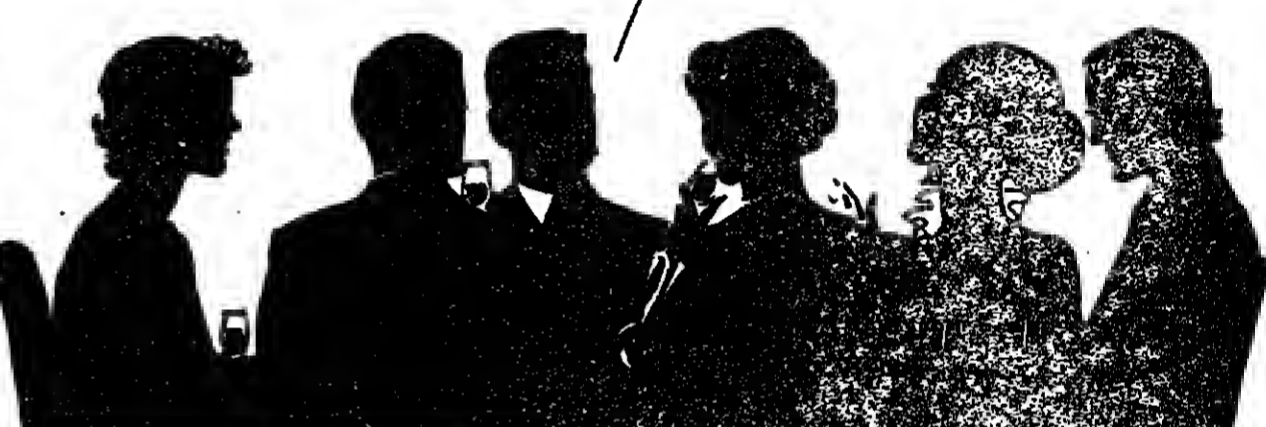
"I so liked your book, I wondered who wrote it for you."



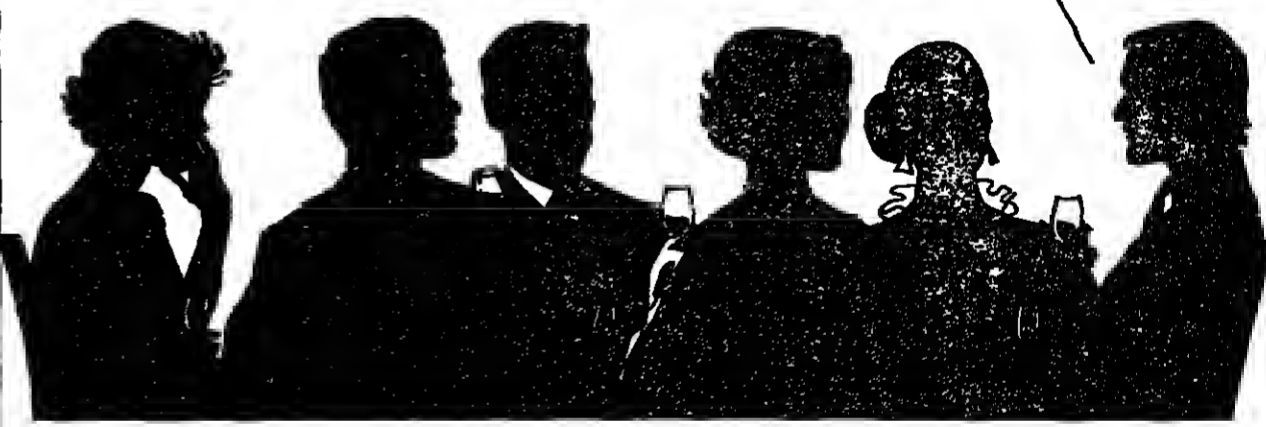
"I'm so glad you enjoyed it. Who read it to you?"



"That woman speaks eight languages."



"But she can't say no in any of them."



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THE ART OF FINE TABLE TALK IS KNOWING WHO TO INVITE TO DINNER. SANDEMAN FOUNDERS RESERVE PORT.

WORLD SUMMARY

Villagers lose long fight against dam

Madrid — Determined residents of the doomed town of Riano confronted policemen on foot and horseback firing rubber bullets and smoke bombs yesterday in a futile last-ditch effort to keep their homes from being demolished (Harry Debelius writes).

Hope of yet another reprieve for the northern Spanish town, which has been living on borrowed time since construction of a dam on the river Esla began 20 years ago, faded on Wednesday morning when a local judge failed to suspend a stay of execution previously granted in favour of the townfolk.

Church bells chimed at 7.30am, alerting residents to the long feared arrival of hundreds of policemen, who screamed a chorus of heavy construction machinery, brought for the purpose of demolishing 23 houses which stand in the way of the construction of pillars for a high bridge which will cross above the town that is to be submerged.

According to Spanish authorities, the artificial lake which will drown Riano and eight small villages nearby, will make possible the irrigation of 80,000 hectares and will produce 108 kilowatts of electric power.

●PAMPLONA: Four workers were killed when shattering collapsed and buried them under 150 tonnes of newly-poured concrete at a hydroelectric plant being built in Pamplona (Reuters reports).

Swiss switch

Berne (Reuters) — The Swiss Parliament has elected Mr Arnold Koller Economy Minister and Mr Flavio Comi Interior Minister yesterday.

They will take the places respectively of Mr Kurt Furgler, Switzerland's longest-serving cabinet member, and Mr Alphons Egli. All four men are Christian Democrats, one of four parties in the centre coalition that has governed Switzerland for 27 years.

Revenge lynching

Nairobi (AFP) — Angry villagers near Lake Victoria shore town of Kisumu, have lynched three armed bogus policemen who had been terrorising them, *The Kenya Times* reported.

The three were in a group of five men dressed in police uniforms and armed with machetes and clubs. They had been conducting a door-to-door raid in the village when they were suspected of being robbers. Three were overpowered and killed.

Cancer campaign

Brussels — The EEC has launched a new campaign against cancer in Europe with a promise to ban sales of duty free cigarettes in ports and airports (A Correspondent writes).

The Social Affairs Commissioner, Señor Marnett Marin presented a 75-point plan to check the spread of a disease which is expected to affect one EEC citizen in three by the year 2000, compared with one in four today.

The main areas of action would be the fight against tobacco addiction, improvement in eating habits, a reduction in alcohol consumption and more protection against radon.

The Brussels authorities are also concerned to step up regular screening for cancer in Europe.

Millions for Miro

Madrid — Forty-two paintings by Joan Miró, sold here by Sotheby's, fetched £2.6 million, two thirds higher than the artist's heirs had been advised to expect in Spain (Richard Wigg writes).

Considerable foreign interest was shown in the first public auction of works in Miró's own possession when he died, aged 90, almost three years ago. Three quarters of the paintings were sold to foreign purchasers.

Jelly Jesus too much

A Bean sweets-maker has come unstuck with a special Christmas line in jelly figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as well as cherry stable animals, shepherds and Stars of Bethlehem (John England writes).

The West German Catholic Bishops Conference has criticized the firm, Haribo, for a "tastelessness for which Catholics and other Christians have no understanding", and the firm has been deluged with letters of complaint from the public.

But a spokesman for the firm said yesterday: "We can't withdraw the sweets from the market because they have all gone out to retailers."

Colonel to face Malta legislature

From Anstin Sammut Malta

The commander of Malta's "Task Force", an elite corps, is to be brought before the House of Representatives to answer a charge of breaching the privilege of the House.

Colonel John Carthia yesterday entered the House and challenged the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, calling him a liar. Dr Fenech Adami was replying to the 1986 budget speech.

A number of ministers and parliamentary members then crossed the floor and crowded the Opposition leader before the televised sitting was suspended for the second time.

Dr Fenech Adami devoted the main part of his speech to what he called "the threat to liberty and democracy in Malta", evident from the political violence occurring the previous week, which left one person dead and at least 70 injured.

He described how socialist supporters had shot at the car of the Task Force commander at Zejtoun on November 30, and then exclaimed: "Excuse me sir, we did not notice it was you."

Dr Fenech Adami read out excerpts of radio conversations between police officers at Zejtoun on November 30 and the Prime Minister and other ministers. He accused one minister of being an accomplice in the police-aided criminal assault on Nationalist Party supporters attending a mass rally there.

The Leader of the Opposition said his party had recordings of all radio communications and claimed that the gas used by the police on that day was not tear gas but choking gas.

Rights day detentions in Russia

From Christopher Walker Moscow

The strict limits to changes in Soviet policy under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev were demonstrated yesterday when International Human Rights Day was marked by the detention of four members of divided families and a vigorous defence by officials of the decision to banish Mr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, nearly seven years ago.

A Foreign Ministry press conference staged to denounce the claimed new approach by Moscow to "humanitarian issues" backfired when Western reporters drew negative responses on a number of key issues from senior officials who did nothing to disguise their contempt for many of the questions.

Mr Vsevolod Sofinsky, First Deputy Head of the Ministry for Humanitarian and Cultural Relations, was asked whether Dr Sakharov's exile to Gorky, some 250 miles outside Moscow, would be permanent.

"There is nothing permanent in this world. What is most temporary is most permanent," he said.

To the obvious irritation of the seven-strong Soviet panel, Mr Sofinsky was asked to explain the Kremlin's plans for Dr Sakharov's future.

"You know in a planned state, we do everything on the basis of plans except for those which cannot be planned," he replied obscurely.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Anatoly Marchenko, the Soviet dissident whose death was revealed by relatives early this week, died from a brain haemorrhage which followed "a natural and long disease".

Disarray benefits President

From Diana Geddes Paris

The disarray of the Government of M Jacques Chirac, following the defeat of its controversial education Bill at the hands of the students, has given President Mitterrand a wonderful opportunity to reassert his pre-eminence on the French political scene.

In a two-hour radio interview on Tuesday night, scheduled a year ago and therefore long before the recent troubles began, M Mitterrand said he had asked M Chirac several times to withdraw the University Reform Bill — a decision he had taken "a little late, but just in time". (On Sunday, M Chirac denied that the President had ever asked him to withdraw the Bill.)

M Mitterrand went on to say that he felt himself "on the same wavelength" as the students, who were "remarkably mature and endowed with great wisdom and an undeniably pacific temperament". There had been no violence on their part, he claimed, but on the part of professional trouble-makers.

Asked about his relations with the Prime Minister, he said he found M Chirac a man of "many qualities which I would hope would be used in the right place and at the right moment".

Cohabitation, he confessed, was a difficult art. Everyone knew that he and M Chirac did not share views on a number of subjects, but "we manage to work out a common line on the issues relating to the major interests of France, foreign policy and defence in particular."

"Each of us, in his own way, is in the service of France," he said.

M Mitterrand claimed it was the President's role to act as an umpire or judge and make known his views whenever he felt the common interests or unity of the country were endangered. But, he had no



Paris students' banners attack the killing of a comrade by police (Photograph: Chris Harris)

power to initiate or pass laws. That, he said, was the work of the Government and Parliament.

During the first five years of his presidency, before the advent of cohabitation, M Mitterrand had enjoyed the same vast powers as his three predecessors. Powers which he had always considered excessive in so far as they were based on practice, and not on

a strict reading of the constitution.

"There must not be absolute power," he continued, "but there is a pre-eminent power. The president must be able to dispose of great authority. This great authority he will find in the texts (of the constitution), but above all he will find it in himself and in his way of conducting himself."

Protests in Paris end with silent procession

From Michael McCarthy Paris

Several hundred thousand young people in a procession four miles long closed the 1986 French student revolt, the authorities hope, in their own inimitable fashion yesterday by filling the boulevards of Paris with silence.

Organizers of the march claimed a turnout of more than 500,000 in Paris with another 200,000 in the provinces, while the police put the turnout at 126,000 in the capital.

Defiantly displaying their self-control to the Government, whose education reform plan was so humiliatedly defeated by their agitation, the students walked from the Place Denfert Rochereau in the south of the city to the Place de la Nation in the east in an enormous file that was slow, peaceful, and completely hushed.

The entire student population of Paris seemed to have turned itself into a solemn memorial carriage for Malik Ousseline, the student killed in last week's riots.

The de facto leader of this year's semi-uprising, David Assouline, a history student, told the mass of demonstrators when they arrived at Place de la Nation: "This demonstration has been the best possible homage we could have rendered to Malik and the other victims of police repression."

Nixon says Iran issue is not a Watergate

From Michael Binyon Washington

Former President Nixon, speaking out for the first time on the Iran crisis, said it was not another Watergate, nor would it become one as long as the Reagan Administration kept the initiative.

But he urged Republicans to defend the President and not to indulge in "cannibalism".

He went on: "As I have written in my memoirs, Watergate was handled abysmally. President Reagan is handling this crisis expeditiously."

He had talked to the President several times on the telephone recently, and Mr Reagan said he knew nothing of the diversion of funds to the Contras. "And I believe him," Mr Nixon added.

The former President, who resigned over Watergate in 1974, was addressing a meeting of Republican governors in New Jersey.

He admitted that Mr Reagan was in trouble because subordinates "screwed up", but said the President's critics should "get off his back" and allow him to continue his "quest for peace".

He called the controversy over Iran and the Contras funds a "sideshow in Washington" that could weaken the President in his dealings with Moscow.

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Refugees refuse to give up hope in slum camps of West Bank

From Ian Murray, Nablis

The "main road" is about five feet across from rough concrete wall to rough concrete wall. The air is heavy with the pungent odour of disinfectant overlying rotting rubbish and urine. The "side roads" are alleys, barely a yard across, leading steeply up and down hill to the ill-ventilated houses.

Mr Mohammed Atta knows these alleys and houses intimately. He was born 25 years ago in the one where he still lives.

Each day as a boy he walked down the main road to the little UNRWA (UN Relief

A 16-year-old girl was hit in the elbow by a bullet when Israeli soldiers fired to break up a demonstration by Palestinian schoolchildren in the Gaza Strip yesterday morning. (Our Own Correspondent writes).

According to the army the girl was inciting other children to demonstrate and had ignored a warning to disperse.

and Work Agency) school where the windows look straight out across the grave-stones in the Muslim cemetery.

Like so many others in the camp he refused to accept the view that the school was the dead end of his academic career. He is now a qualified architect and teacher's assistant at the An Najah University in Nablis and has won a scholarship to study in America next August.

The faded smell of the camp permeates every dingy room.

It is relatively well-appointed with a good water supply and three telephones for the 4,000 residents, but the overcrowding has inevitably created slum conditions.

Mr Atta has spent his life in this modern slum, which was built in 1955 and was meant to last for only five years.

He saves what he can from his earnings in the hope that one day he will be able to buy his way out by building his own house for a wife he still seeks.

He does not expect her to come from any of the wealthy West Bank families, whose opulent homes flank the road leading to the refugee camp. They do not mix with the refugees very much. He wants children of his own, despite the apparent hopelessness.

A neighbour up the alleyway is Mr Wassef Zaitoun, the cousin of Ramadan Zaitoun, aged 12, who died on Monday with a bullet in the head after a stone-throwing incident at Balata Camp, on the other side of Nablis.

The Army says the boy died before soldiers fired live ammunition at the camp that day but Mr Wassef says he has spoken to a girl, aged 13, who caught the dying boy in her arms as he fell. "The Army would say they didn't shoot, of course," he says. "But the girl saw the soldiers fire."

He says no one in the camps has any guns. "Even if someone wears a bullet on a chain round his neck he goes to prison for six months. Only the army have guns. We have only stones to throw."



Shia Muslim Amal militiamen firing against Palestinians at the Bourj-al-Barajneh refugee camp before the ceasefire.

Lebanon's 'savage war' is interrupted

Maghdousheh, Lebanon. (Reuters) - Guerrillas yesterday honoured part of an Iranian-mediated accord to defuse the savage "camps war" between Palestinian fighters and Shia Muslim Amal militia in Beirut and south Lebanon.

The Palestinians evacuated some strategic positions won from Amal in Maghdousheh, 25 miles south of Beirut, and Amal allowed ambulances and relief supplies into the besieged Palestinian refugee camp at Rashidiyeh, near Tyre.

A handful of Christian residents ventured from their shell-pocked houses to watch the handover, which was supervised by Iranian officials, who had done much of the negotiating.

Hezbollah ambulances took away 20 corpses which had been lying in the debris-strewn streets for more than a week.

Shortly after the Maghdousheh withdrawal, about 100 Amal fighters around Rashidiyeh watched as two vans with emergency supplies and six ambulances entered the refugee camp, breaking a two-month Amal siege.

Ambulances from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross, were expected to evacuate wounded Palestinians.

Balldozers had already removed huge sand barriers erected around the camp as shields from snipers.

In Beirut, Palestinian sources reported sporadic exchanges of rocket-propelled

grenades at the Shatilla and Bourj-al-Barajneh camps.

Yesterday's moves to implement the truce came after five days during which Iranian and Libyan efforts were undermined by three days of fighting and the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who enjoys wide support in the camps, has so far rejected the latest ceasefire.

"We want this war among brothers to end. We want a political solution and the Soviet Union has made contacts with the parties concerned," he said on Tuesday.

Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who enjoys wide support in the camps, has so far rejected the latest ceasefire.

EEC under spotlight Last-ditch effort to avert trade war

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

A top level Reagan Administration team moved from London to Brussels yesterday for critical talks to head off a threatened trade war between the US and the EEC.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Richard Lyng, the US Agriculture Secretary, left after meetings with British ministers. Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Secretary, had arrived from London earlier, and Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, was expected to join them.

Earlier, Mr Lyng discussed the trade war threat with Mr Paul Channon, Britain's Secretary for Trade and Industry.

The Americans planned to hold a preparatory session before talking to EEC officials on Friday. They are to see members of the Commission in a last-ditch effort to beat a December 31 deadline imposed by the US.

Measures to block EEC exports to the US worth \$500 million (£352 million) a year have been threatened if the dispute is not solved. But with both sides taking up fixed positions the room for negotiation looked slender.

The Americans have demanded compensation for the

loss of exports to Spain and Portugal of sorghum and maize worth \$300 million. The accession of both countries to the EEC had the effect of making it cheaper for their importers to buy from European countries.

M Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, has responsibility for the negotiations rather than the European Council. He has refused to pay compensation but offered other measures. This is understood to be unacceptable to the Americans.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who is in Brussels for the main annual meeting of the North Atlantic Council, was staying in close touch with the talks. Britain's presidency of the EEC gave him the responsibility for liaising with M Delors. The Council has expressed full support for M Delors' stand.

The dispute almost came to a head last July but a trade war was averted by a delaying formula. This allowed the EEC to continue exports to the US at the 1985 level on the understanding that a full agreement would be reached by the end of the year.

Howe warns of fragile relations with US

From Robert Owen, Strasbourg

On the eve of crucial US-European talks in Brussels today and tomorrow, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, yesterday urged Europe not to exacerbate political and economic tensions with Washington.

In his final address to the European Parliament as President of the EEC Council of Ministers, he said the West must not be distracted from "the real opportunities" for East-West arms control agreements in the wake of the Reykjavik summit.

He said a solution had to be found on US-European trade tensions by the end of the year to avoid political disruption within the Western alliance.

The annual meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels today gives Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, a chance to soothe European anxieties over US foreign policy in the wake of both the Reykjavik summit and the White House scandal over the Iran arms deal.

Tomorrow Mr Shultz has the equally difficult task of tackling EEC-US trade tensions in talks at the EEC Commission.

Washington has threatened to retaliate by December 31

against what it sees as unfair EEC barriers against American farm exports following the enlargement of the Community earlier this year to include Spain and Portugal.

Sir Geoffrey warned that US-European relations must not be allowed to deteriorate because of bitter battles over steel or cereal exports. Farm subsidies, he said, were a problem on both sides of the Atlantic and had to be dealt with within Gatt (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) to avoid a "slide into protectionism".

"It would be tempting to put up barriers against imports from America. But 16 per cent of EEC farm exports go to America. If we took unilateral action we should soon be like Pyrrhus, who said after the battle of Asculum: 'One more victory like that and we are done for!'"

Sir Geoffrey identified Western arms priorities as the removal of intermediate nuclear forces from Europe, a halving of strategic arms and a chemical weapons ban, but said there could be no East-West confidence unless Moscow improved its human rights policies.

Crisis budget meeting

From Our Correspondent, Strasbourg

Amid plans for a crisis EEC summit in Brussels in March, EEC Budget Ministers last night held emergency consultations with the European Parliament in a final bid to settle a Common Market budget for 1987.

Euro-MPs said it was possible there may not be agreement by tomorrow's deadline - when the Parliament is due to vote on the second and final budget reading - because of disagreements over spending priorities and the likely £2 billion overrun on the 1987 budget.

They said if the budget was rejected the Community would be funded by a system of "provisional twelfths".

Mr Henning Christophersen, the Budget Commissioner, yesterday warned that this year's shortfall of at least £1 billion would exhaust all EEC revenues for next year. His warning followed an address by Mrs Thatcher on Tuesday, in which she refused to consider any increase in VAT contributions to the EEC until 1988 at the earliest.

Churches accused in Kenya

From A Correspondent Nairobi

The co-ordinating body for the major Protestant Churches in Kenya, the National Christian Council of Kenya, (NCCCK), has been accused by a senior government minister of attempting to play the role of an opposition party and engaging in subversive activities.

Mr Justus Ole Tipis, the Minister of State responsible for internal security, said the NCCCK tended to deviate from its original role of bringing Christians together in Kenya and was involved in political matters outside its mandate.

He disclosed that the Kenya Government is currently investigating allegations that some members of the council might have knowledge of the underground activities of the clandestine Mwakanya organization. These investigations have already indicated there was reasonable evidence that "some elements within the NCCCK" were opposed to the policies of the Government and the ruling party, Kanu, the minister said.

Mr Tipis went on: "This conduct, among some few members of the NCCCK, and their masters who are hiding behind the organization, has not only created concern in the Government, but also among member Churches, to the extent that some are already pulling out of the organization." He said the Government would not allow the NCCCK to be used as a "den for underground politics".

Three die in Zambia food riots

Lusaka (Reuters) -

The Zambian copper belt was quiet yesterday after two days of food riots in which at least three people died.

The army was patrolling the streets of at least one major town and police roadblocks had replaced rioters' barricades, residents said.

The rioting, over a 120 per cent rise in the price of refined maize meal, subsided on Tuesday night after the Government imposed a curfew.

The Government also closed land borders to outgoing travellers, although visitors can still arrive and depart normally through the country's airports.

Security forces were back in control in the main towns of Kitwe and Ndola early yesterday, although the atmosphere was still tense and shops and businesses stayed closed.

"Things seem to be calming down. I think this morning is quite quiet," one businessman in Kitwe said.

In Kitwe, a town of 460,000 inhabitants, lorry-loads of soldiers patrolled the city to back up the police, who had fought stone-throwing rioters on Monday and Tuesday.

Security forces were carrying out extensive identity checks and streets were littered with debris from stoned vehicles, looted shops and Government offices.

The sound of gunfire that crackled almost continuously in the streets of Kitwe yesterday had virtually disappeared.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سنة ١٤٠٧" (Year 1407 AH)

EEC under spotlight Last-ditch effort to avert trade war

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Level Reagan Administration team moved from Brussels yesterday to head off a trade war between the EEC and the US.

George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Richard L. Armitage, the US Agriculture Secretary, left after meetings with British ministers.

Mr. Shultz said the US Secretary of State had arrived in London earlier, and Mr. Armitage, the US Agriculture Secretary, was expected to join him.

Mr. Lyng discussed the trade war with Mr. Shultz. Britain's Secretary of State, Geoffrey Howe, is expected to arrive in Brussels for the main part of the talks.

The Commission is expected to start the talks on the 14th. The Commission is expected to start the talks on the 14th.

The Commission is expected to start the talks on the 14th.

We warn of fragile relations with US

From Robert Owen, Strasbourg

Relations between the EEC and the US are fragile, a senior EEC official has warned.

The official said that the EEC and the US are in a state of "delicate equilibrium" and that any misstep could lead to a trade war.

The official said that the EEC and the US are in a state of "delicate equilibrium" and that any misstep could lead to a trade war.

US budget meeting

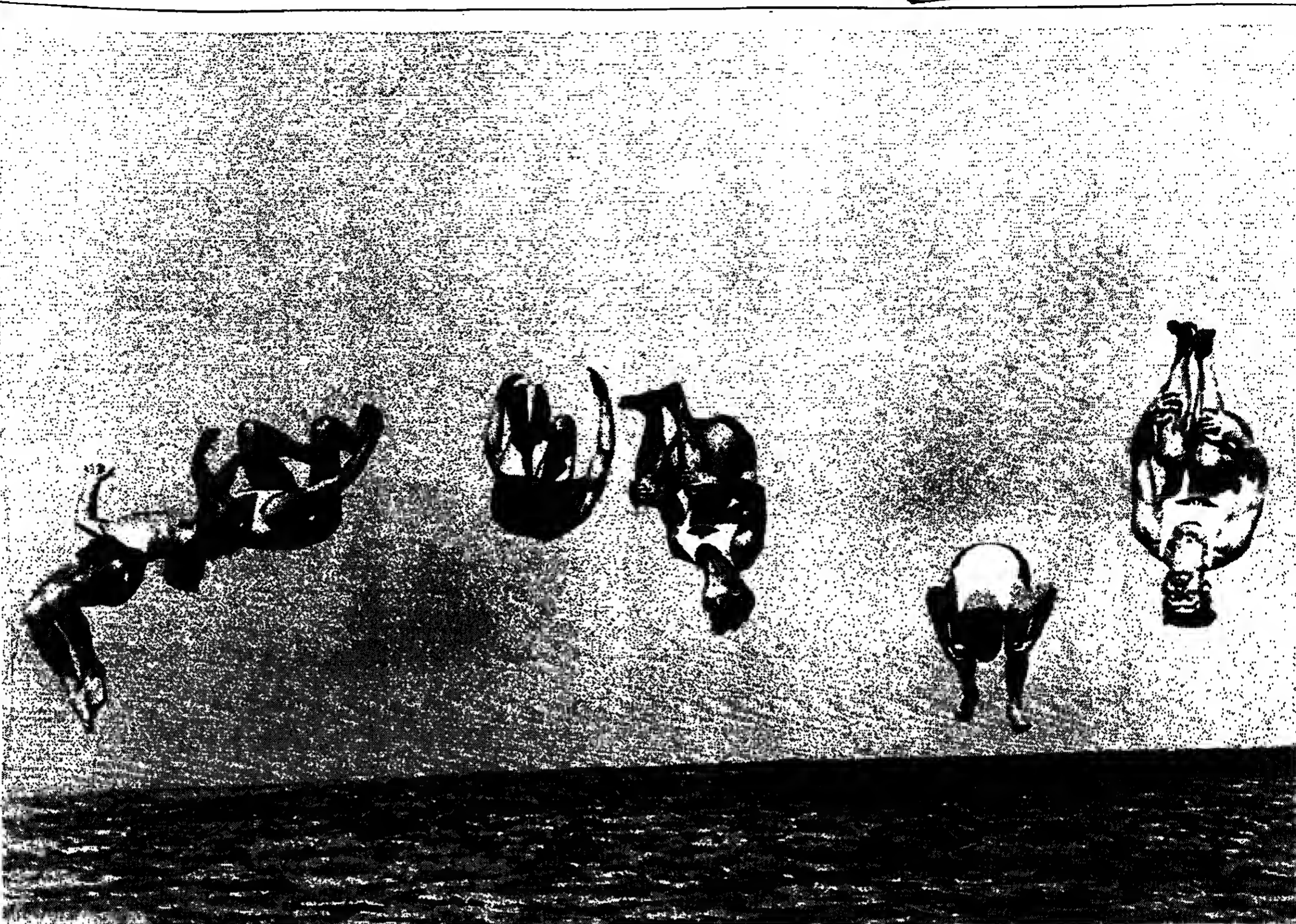
The US budget meeting is expected to be a key event in the coming weeks.

The meeting will focus on the President's budget proposal and the potential impact on the EEC.

Three die in Zambia food riots

Three people were killed during food riots in Zambia.

The riots were caused by a shortage of food and a rise in prices.



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Filipinos rejoice at 60-day truce

From Keith Dalton Manila

Fighting officially stopped at noon yesterday in the Philippines 17-year-old insurgency with hundreds of unarmed communist rebels streaming into provincial cities from their mountain hide-outs to join peace rallies.

Several hundred masked communist rebels commandeered trucks and minibuses into Cagayan de Oro city where, with hundreds of supporters, they marched through the southern city chanting "Mabuhay (long live) ceasefire, Mabuhay Cory Aquino".

Church bells in the central city of Bacolod heralded the start of the 60-day truce and were greeted with wild applause and cheers from about 200 rebels who joined more than 10,000 residents in a peace rally.

Occasional fireworks in Manila and a small rally at the capital's main Roman Catholic cathedral highlighted the low-key official observance of the first attempt to negotiate an end to the bloody rebellion in which more than 18,000 people have died.

There were no reports of any clashes since the start of the ceasefire.

The armed forces chief, General Fidel Ramos, ordered a halt to all fighting but warned Filipinos not to be "complacent", reminding them that since the ceasefire was signed on November 27, 15 civilians had died in the guerrilla war.

President Aquino cautiously welcomed the ceasefire — a personal political triumph — by telling the nation that "the prospects of a truly effective ceasefire depend on a sincere desire for peace on both sides."

Peace talks on "substantive issues" to resolve south-east Asia's major communist insurgency are due to begin before the end of the month and both sides expect long and tedious negotiations.

Hours before the ceasefire began, the rebel negotiator, Mr Satur Ocampo, broadcast a nationwide appeal on government radio for the 13,000 strong New Peoples Army (NPA) to abide by the truth.



Champagne after the hard talking: the rebel negotiator Mr Antonio Zamel, centre, with government military representatives, retired Major-General Jose Magno, left, and Major-General Eduardo Ermita, right, celebrate the truce.

Disagreements over military operations during the two-month-long truce almost delayed the start of the ceasefire which coincides with International Human Rights Day.

After more than four hours of talks, the rebel negotiators agreed that armed guerrilla units would not enter "population centres".

In return, government negotiators promised that routine patrols would be conducted by police units only against criminals and a system of signs and signals would allow the rebels

safe passage in the countryside.

Only on the eve of the ceasefire did both sides agree on the five members of a national ceasefire committee to implement the accord and monitor violations, but local committees throughout the country still have to be formed.

In the meantime, we would like to call on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and good faith in the spirit of making the ceasefire agreement a reality," the chief government negotiator, Mr

Teofisto Guingona, said at a joint press conference with his rebel counterparts.

Mr Ocampo, representing the National Democratic Front, said the rebels were committed to "observe the spirit and the letter" of the accord but indicated differences remained over the ban on rebels carrying firearms in public places.

The NFA operates in the population areas in the city and in the countryside. They will be demobilised if they are disarmed," he said.

Lange is warned Canberra can't fill US role

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday warned New Zealand that his country could not fill the role in a security alliance once played by the United States.

Arriving in Wellington for a four-day visit and talks with Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Hayden bluntly spelled out his Government's complete disagreement with its Tasman neighbour on its ban on visits by nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered ships.

This policy, he said, as well as causing Australia "marked additional expense" because of the need to duplicate separate defence exercises with New Zealand after training with the United States.

Mr Hayden's comments, on the eve of his talks with Mr Lange, are likely to cause Wellington considerable embarrassment.

Mr Lange and his ministers had said they were seeking an expanded defence relationship with Australia to replace the loss of the American security guarantee.

Washington withdrew its guarantee, as well as defence training and exchanges, when Wellington imposed its ban on visits by nuclear warships early last year.

Mr Frank O'Flynn, the New Zealand Minister of Defence, said there were no problems in strengthening the Australian defence arrangements

Mr Hayden, however, rejected this. "Australia cannot realistically be expected to provide a substitute for the United States as a security partner for New Zealand," he said.

Mr Hayden left the impression that the maintenance of separate defence exercises with New Zealand could pose budgetary problems for Australia in the future. "It has not so far... But what next year's budget is likely to be like, I don't know," Mr Paul Keating, the Canberra Treasurer, he said, had chilled his colleagues this week with some warnings about costs.

The comments are seen as a major setback to the Lange Government as it seeks to find a way out of the defence dilemma brought on by its nuclear warships ban. Legislation to enforce the ban, currently before Parliament, has brought objections from both London and Washington.

The New Zealand policy has also brought difficulties for the Australian Labour Government of Prime Minister Mr Bob Hawke, who, as a result, has declined to visit New Zealand.

Mr Hayden, in an arrival statement handed to reporters, said the Australian Government "disagrees completely with New Zealand policy on port and air access and understands the actions which the United States has taken to suspend its security obligations under Azzus to New Zealand."

Swiss will recognize Hong Kong passport

Hong Kong (AFP)

Switzerland is the first country to recognize formally a new British-Hong Kong passport to be issued to some 3.2 million people here from July 1987, the Hong Kong Government announced.

The new British Nations Overseas (BNO) passport will replace the existing British Dependent Territories (BDTC) passport, which will expire in 1997 when the British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty.

The BNO passport, in keeping with the BDTC travel document, will not give the holder the right of abode in Britain, which has raised worries here on the validity of a travel document.

The Swiss re-entry meant holders of BNO passports will be allowed to enter Switzerland without visas.

Soviet survey
Moscow (Reuters) — A limited census of the Soviet population, covering 800,000 people, got under way yesterday in preparation for a full survey in 1989.

Out of jail
Singapore (Reuters) — The Singapore opposition leader, Mr Jeyaretnam, was released after a one-month prison sentence for fraud, to be greeted by 2,000 supporters.

Asylum sought
Melbourne (Rever) — Neum Shalamanov, 39, the Bulgarian weightlifter who disappeared after breaking a world record at the weekend, is seeking political asylum in Australia.

Coke war
Cocacola (Reuters) — Coca-Cola said it has signed a \$30 million agreement to bottle and sell Coke more widely in the Soviet Union, where its arch-rival Pepsi-Cola is already well established.

Old tech
Brussels (AP) — Due to a computer failure, the daily newspaper, *De Morgen*, appeared on the new stands with its 32 tabloid pages filled with articles hand-written by its journalists and editors.

Bali breal
Jakarta (Reuters) — William York, a 34-year-old Australian jailed on drugs charges on the holiday island of Bali, has been recaptured after breaking out of prison, but a West German who escaped with him was still at large.

Yen spre
Tokyo (Reuters) — Japanese companies spent more than 10.5 billion yen (\$6 billion) a day entertaining foreign business partners and associates last year.

Colombia drug barons turn to heroin business

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

Evidence is mounting that drug barons in Colombia, once centre of the cocaine racket in South America, are entering the heroin trade.

Early this week police seized 55 lb of heroin, worth about \$1.5 million (£1 million), in a small town near Medellín. Colombia's second biggest city, which is regarded as the corporate headquarters of the nation's cocaine racketeers.

The haul, packed in plastic bags in the boot of a white coupe, stopped after a tip-off confirmed the long-held suspicions of Colombia's anti-narcotics squad that the nation's "mafiosos" have made contact with heroin racketeers in south-east Asia's "Golden Triangle". Their aim seems to be to convert Colombia into a bridge for smuggling heroin into the United States and Europe.

As the only South American country with coasts on the Pacific and the Caribbean-Atlantic, Colombia is in an ideal location to do just that, as its long involvement in the cocaine trade has underlined. It is estimated that Colom-

bia is the source of 75 per cent of the cocaine and 40 per cent of the marijuana which enters the US, and also of the increasingly large shipments of cocaine reaching Europe. The marijuana is home-grown and the cocaine is processed in laboratories from coca paste brought in from Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

With a sophisticated network of ships and planes, the Colombian racketeers are well-placed to add heroin to their illicit business and they have always shown a talent for diversifying. Most of them started as ordinary smugglers. In the 1970s they made fantastic fortunes out of the "marijuana bonanza" when Colombia was the source of about 90 per cent of the marijuana entering the US. By the end of the decade they started to concentrate on cocaine with equal success.

Last month a federal grand jury in Miami indicted Medellín dollar-billionaire Pablo Escobar Gavira and four others on charges of controlling up to 80 per cent of the world's cocaine trade.

Quick end in sight after secret documents deal

From Stephen Taylor Sydney

Yesterday's dramatic surrender by the British Government of secret information in the MI5 book trial, clears the way for a speedy end to proceedings which started more than a year ago and which have proved an acute embarrassment to Whitehall.

But while this compromise saves some face for the Thatcher administration it leaves a lot of questions unanswered.

In particular, it may be inferred that either Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, deliberately misled the hearing, or that he was kept in the dark about the involvement of MI5 and MI6 in the publication of secret information of which he ought to have been aware.

Further, while Whitehall has sought throughout to dismiss the application for access to the papers as "a fishing expedition", Mr Malcolm Turnbull, Mr Peter Wright's counsel, is satisfied that he has landed evidence of "striking differences" between Sir

Robert's testimony and the facts.

The most immediate result of yesterday's deal is that the issue of the secret documents will not go to the Appeal Court today and the hearing, rather than dragging on into next year, will probably end with final submissions next week.

Another consequence is that Sir Robert will not have to return to Sydney for further cross-examination.

Under the deal, Mr Turnbull has abandoned his claim to the documents in exchange for a summary of their contents.

One sticking point, which involved intensive last-minute negotiations outside the court yesterday, concerns the details surrounding publication of Chapman Pincher's book, *Theirs Trade is Treachery*.

It has been a crucial element in the defence case that Whitehall knew about — possibly encouraged — Mr Pincher's book, which first breached the suspicion that Sir Roger Hollis, former Director-General of MI5, had been a Soviet double agent.

From the summary agreed yesterday, it is evident that the



Mr Turnbull: his moment of triumph

two intelligence services knew that Mr Pincher was writing the book fully two months before Sir Robert admitted in evidence — and that even at that early stage they had a synopsis of it.

When the hearing started, Sir Robert — who subsequently admitted more than once misleading the court — said that he had first become aware of the existence of the book "about February 1981".

He was asked: "Did anyone else in the service of the Government know in late 1980

that Pincher was writing the book about Hollis?"

He replied: "Not to my knowledge."

However, the summary of documents released yesterday shows that a letter from MI6/D to MI5 dated December 15, 1980, "indicates that the writer had been informed that Chapman Pincher intended to publish in February or March 1981, a book about the security service, a synopsis of which was enclosed."

The summary adds the following: "It was generally agreed in the security and intelligence services that there would be no point in trying to encourage specific deletions or changes in the text, but no reasons are expressed for this view."

It goes on: "The manuscript was first read in February 1981 when it appeared that much of the information in it had come from former (intelligence) officers."

On the question of why no action was taken to restrain publication, the summary says: "By March 12, 1981 several sources had been identified, but it was stated in writing by an officer of the

service to Sir Robert Armstrong that the service was a long way from obtaining hard, reliable evidence on sources."

It adds: "Sir Robert Armstrong and the Home Office learned of the fact that information contained in the book would have come from former members of the security and intelligence services on or about February 12, 1981. The documents do not show when the Prime Minister or the Home Secretary learned of these matters."

On the reasons why the authorities took no steps to stop Mr Wright's television interview in July 1984, in which he first stated publicly his suspicions about Sir Roger Hollis, the summary says: "The view was expressed that, if a preview was refused, going for an injunction would undoubtedly be a hard fight and if a preview was agreed the Government could be put in the position of appearing to have approved it whether or not it asked for cuts."

It was Mr Turnbull's moment of triumph.

The hearing is due to resume on Monday for the start of final submissions.

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THE ARTS

Comedy as natural as breathing

THEATRE

When I Was A Girl I Used To Scream And Shout Whitehall

Since descending out of the blue upon the Bush Theatre two years ago, Sharman Macdonald's immensely talented comedy has blossomed into an award-winning property...



Comparing notes: Geraldine James and Julie Walters in 'When I Was A Girl I Used To Scream And Shout'

When I Was A Girl takes place on a beach where Morg (Reid) has brought her unmarried daughter Fiona for a nostalgic holiday...

Vari masterfully taking the initiative. The comedy arises as naturally as breathing, from contrasts between manners and what the girls call "dirt".

Julie Walters, tousle-haired and cheeky, has some brisk pugnaeous arguments with God in the second act, but nothing to compare with her guilty games and giggles with James's Vari who, in this production, appears from the start as a girl all set to be swamped in domesticity...

Irving Wardle. Vari masterfully taking the initiative. The comedy arises as naturally as breathing, from contrasts between manners and what the girls call "dirt".

Crowded solitude

We were informed at the beginning of Diving Cover of Marble (BBC2) that "Caving" is a sport enjoyed by only a million of people who enjoy getting other people do dangerous things on television...

TELEVISION

I regret the disappearance of Eleanor David and Celia Imrie, who brilliantly originated Macdonald's two sexually inquisitive innocents. But their roles have now been taken over by the equally glib partnership of Julie Walters and Geraldine James...

Hey! Luciani Riverside

Those apparently in the know describe this as a cool play. They may be right about the cool but are far adrift in thinking it a play. What Mark E Smith, of the pop group The Fall, has done is fit his latest songs around incidents connected with the reign and surprise death of Pope John Paul I, Albino Luciani as was...

Jeremy Kingston The Bijers Sunbird Lyric, Hammersmith

Written and directed by South African Robert Kirby, The Bijers Sunbird is less a piece of drama and more an attempt to examine differing white South Africa opposition to apartheid.

Beth Porter

Key. He tells of besting government opposition to the construction of a black township garden by replanting it each time the armed patrols destroy it, until they finally leave the blooms in peace.

Hilary Finch

Christ Church Spitalfields, with its vieux murs, crumbling plaster work and lofty pillars. And there could hardly have been a better case.

Usher/Cléopâtre Christ Church Spitalfields

The Debussy/Edgar Allan Poe collection is little-known and even less exploited in public performance. Yet during the nine years spent by the composer working on his libretto for a one-act opera, The Fall of the House of Usher, his nerves were "as tant as the strings of a violin".

Paul Griffiths

Between the symphonies there was a very fluent and often charming account of Mozart's C major concerto K.503 from Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, though wit and surprise were heard more in the accompaniment.

Goneril is not really evil, says Anna Massey - who'll be playing her at the National Theatre from tonight - she just had the misfortune to have Lear for a father

A woman of a certain rage

Anna Massey is not commonly associated with evil - still less with snooker. But then our foremost portrayer of that most elusive chameleon of nuance, from the insistently sexual to the disembodiedly scatty - the woman of a certain age - is full of surprises. Tonight, at the National's Olivier Theatre, she is appearing as that celebrated infamous sister who prompted her husband to declare that "Proper deformity shows not in the fiend / So horrid as in woman".



Armchair spectator: away from the theatre, Anna Massey takes her cue from snooker

educated she is very widely read. When she speaks she was on the point - rehearsals and the snooker notwithstanding - of finishing Proust. Her quickness, she admits, does result in a certain impatience. She does, however, seem to have more patience with directors than some of her profession.

home movies are not so homey. With her family background, it is no surprise that Massey became an actor. She began acting at 17 - before her brother Daniel. "I thought the decision had been somewhat thrust on me by my environment. I left school utterly ill-equipped for decision-making."

project she helped to set up. One advantage, she says, in working in the theatre, rather than in television or film, is that she's not able to see herself perform. "It's agony having to face up to what you look like and sound like." She also likes working with an audience. "Actors and sportsmen have to embrace the audience or the spectators."

Advertisement for 'An Italian Straw Hat' by Simon Moore, featuring Tom Conti, Clive Dunn, and Stratford Johns. Directed by Anton Rodgers. Shaftesbury Theatre of Comedy.

Advertisement for Graft jewelry, featuring a diamond ring. Text: 'Unmistakably Graft. Make her day. 55 Brompton Road, London SW3. Tel: 01-584 8571.'

Advertisement for 'The Wind in the Willows' musical. Text: 'I'm at the MERNAD THEATRE THIS YEAR. FROM 15 DECEMBER FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY. 5755 Robson Books.'

Advertisement for 'Dudley Moore's Musical Bumps' musical. Text: 'From Beethoven to the Beatles - an enticing medley of musical anecdotes. 5755 Robson Books.'

CONCERTS

CBSO/Rattle Town Hall, Birmingham

It was a severe, angular and strident Brahms that Simon Rattle offered last night in his performance of the Fourth Symphony. A Brahms seen, perhaps, more in the harsh light of Webern's Passacaglia than through his own telescope of Bach and Beethoven.

The simultaneous dupe and triple metres of the first movement were maintained as muscular lines to generate a rhythmic tension that moved the music forward in great arcs; and at the centre of this movement there was an unmarked but extraordinarily effective deceleration towards an almost Wagnerian blackness in the sustained chords.

Then again, the excellent ensemble playing of the Birmingham orchestra enabled Rattle to achieve a perfect engineering out only of such tempo changes but also of the music's long dynamic gradations.

What it also made possible was a full hearing of the harmony. The long melody in the slow movement, beautifully sung by the cellos first time round, gained a proper submerged vagueness in its violin transformation, simply because for once all the underlying parts were present at

strength. The passacaglia theme of the finale was similarly enriched, to become disquieting, as it should be, right from its second bar. However, it is hard to accept such a lack of pliancy in Brahms. Possibly the stark separation of wind and strings was a freak of the Birmingham Town Hall acoustic, and will be ameliorated when this programme is repeated in the Barbican Hall this evening; but certainly Rattle ought to think about moderating his close attention to the staccato and accentuation marks, particularly in the last two movements.

The scherzo, done at a rather deliberate tempo, could be hard-driven without being almost Stravinskian, and some less exacting gestures might allow the finale to gain more flow and thereby more power.

Rattle has long been totally at home with Sibelius, though, and the performance here of the Sixth Symphony - soon to be recorded by this team - was outstanding in realizing the work's exceedingly odd way of starting each movement as if in those middle and then working backwards to something like a useful opening.

Paul Griffiths

Tension and terror

Usher/Cléopâtre Christ Church Spitalfields

The Debussy/Edgar Allan Poe collection is little-known and even less exploited in public performance. Yet during the nine years spent by the composer working on his libretto for a one-act opera, The Fall of the House of Usher, his nerves were "as tant as the strings of a violin".

Christ Church Spitalfields, with its vieux murs, crumbling plaster work and lofty pillars. And there could hardly have been a better case. Henry Herford's Rodrick was a physical and linguistic tour de force of obsessive fear in his love for his deranged twin sister Madeline (Helen Charnock); Robert Dean was the very model of a Kathonian Mèdeian, playing off Rudolph Piermay's stalwart Ami.

Hilary Finch

Christ Church Spitalfields, with its vieux murs, crumbling plaster work and lofty pillars. And there could hardly have been a better case.

Negrin's production, in its pacing and spare, minutely observed body movement, played brilliantly with dialogue, silence and space, just as the Downshire Players of London made the most of the low woodland writing and string harmonics, the cobweb cymbals and thudding timpani pulse.

DANCE

Arc Dance Company The Place

Kim Brandstrup deserves credit for trying to use good modern music as the basis of his dances, even though the most successful work of the four he showed at The Place last night was the slightest.

during the evening the effect is subverted by the condition of the men's shoes and by retaining the modern-dance cliché of bare feet for the women. Brandstrup includes a few quotations from Nijinski's choreography in his dances as a hint to the knowing; that helps make clear what might otherwise seem a confusing sequence of action.

But this is, in the end, only a superficial response to Stravinsky's profound music, played from a recording which sounded as if it could be Ansermet's.

More successful was Stardoom, meant as a tribute to the Hollywood choreographer Jack Cole and performed to music by Charles Mingus, plus some meaningful pauses between numbers.

John Percival

THE STORY THEY DIDN'T WANT TOLD

Advertisement for the book 'Conspiracy of Silence' by Barrie Penrose and Simon Freeman. Published by Grafton Books. Text: 'Establishment cover-up and official secrecy, class prejudice and personal betrayal - the headline-making story of the secret lives of Anthony Blunt, with testimonies from over 20 former MI5 and MI6 officers - including Peter Wright. If his (Blunt's) story had been presented in fictional terms, most would reject it as too implausible. NIGEL WEST. 2ND REPRINT JUST DELIVERED. A Division of the Collins Publishing Group.'

Outsider first at the post

THE TIMES PROFILE

BHADRA RANCHOD

Professor Bhadra Ranchod gave a tea party on Saturday to say farewell to friends and colleagues before taking up his post as South Africa's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the European Community in Brussels.

It was a rather grand affair, in the Grill Room of the Royal Hotel where, in the not-so-distant past, Professor Ranchod had been humiliated by being ejected from a restaurant because of his colour.

The American and British consuls were there, as were colleagues from the academic world - Professor Ranchod occupies the chair of private law at the University of Durban-Westville in Natal. But it was mainly an occasion for Indian friends of Dr Ranchod and his attractive wife, Vihna, to say goodbye to a local son made good. As the cucumber sandwiches and chocolate cakes circulated, guests extolled the qualities of the first non-white to represent the country as an ambassador.

Since Professor Ranchod's appointment was announced in September, the government has also appointed Dr Frank Quint, a mixed-race (coloured) member of the President's Council, a multi-racial advisory body as Ambassador to the Netherlands.

sent its first non-white diplomat abroad at any level. Now, in addition to the two ambassadors, there are two Indians and a coloured serving in South Africa House in London, an Indian in Canberra and a coloured in Ottawa. But no diplomat has been recruited from South Africa's blacks, who comprise 72 per cent of the population.

Many younger Indians say Professor Ranchod's acceptance of the Brussels post has made him a "collaborator" as the coloured and Indian members of parliament. He has been burnt in effigy on the mainly-Indian campus of Durban-Westville, and denounced by the Indian congresses of Transvaal and Natal, which are affiliates of the United Democratic Front, the broad multi-racial alliance of anti-apartheid organizations regarded as the most radical above-ground opposition to the government.

However, many older Indians see the appointment as an honour for a community which, although relatively privileged in South Africa's finely calibrated racial hierarchy, suffers from a slight identity problem - resented by the black majority as "fat cats" (though many are, in fact, very poor), yet not widely accepted by whites and subject to many of the indignities of apartheid.



Delicate mission: South Africa's first non-white ambassador steps in

The Indian community, about 900,000 people or 2.8 per cent of the population, was not recognized as a permanent part of the South African population until 1961. Previously, repatriation to India had been the policy of the ruling National Party, and is still favoured by its extreme right-wing offshoot, the Herstigte Nasionale Party.

The slightly less fanatical Conservative Party would allow Indians to stay in South Africa, but would confine them to a "reserve" or "homeland", similar to the areas set aside for the black tribal groups. Most ambassadors find themselves at odds with their own governments occasionally, but

there can be few in Professor Ranchod's position - representing a government under which, on grounds of skin colour alone, he can neither vote nor belong to the ruling party; subject to laws that require him to seek a permit if he wants to live in a white area; scorned by many of his own people as a government stooge. Why accept such a poisoned chalice?

"South Africa is a country in a state of transition," Professor Ranchod, a small, softly-spoken man, said when I spoke to him on the eve of his departure. "I have been offered an opportunity to assess the prospect of effecting change in South Africa with the cooperation of those countries with

BIOGRAPHY

1944: Born Port Elizabeth, one of nine children.
1968: Law degree, University of Cape Town.
1972: Doctorate of Law, Leiden University, Holland.
Research at Queen's College, Cambridge, for thesis on South African law of defamation.
1973: Advocate of Supreme

Court, Cape Province.
1974: Chair in Private Law, Durban-Westville University.
1976-78: Dean of Faculty of Law.
1980-81: Visiting Scholar, Columbia Law School, Guest lecturer Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Pennsylvania; and Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, London.

which we have our closest cultural, political and economic links." He offered a historical parallel: "At the time that India was still under British rule there were Indians who served in various capacities."

We were talking in his Durban hotel room as his wife and their two small daughters, Rita and Priya, clattered about in a last-minute frenzy of packing. "I do not see it as my task to see the government's policy. I certainly have no intention of defending apartheid. I think all apartheid laws must go."

Professor Ranchod believes, with some passion, that European governments can best help to promote human rights and political change in South Africa by remaining economically involved in the country. He thinks there is just a chance that EEC governments, businessmen and opinion formers, will be more impressed if they hear this from a brown face.

"If we are to move towards equal opportunity in South Africa, we need a massive inflow of capital to reduce the enormous backlog of under-development that has accumulated over the years. If most of the people are unemployed and have no hope for the future, the conflict will be heightened, which in turn will increase the unwillingness of those who have power to share it."

Dr Ranchod goes to Brussels at a time when the Pretoria government, after a more outward-looking phase, has retreated into the laager and seems to be drawing the wagons into an ever-tightening circle. Only days before his departure, Pretoria shot down what had looked like one of the more promising political initiatives - the proposal by a multi-racial constitutional conference, or *indaba*, for a multi-racial, one-man, one-vote, provincial government in Natal. "I hope it's not their last word on the subject," said Dr Ranchod.

"There are those who say that

you can't solve South Africa's problems piecemeal. But if there isn't a final blueprint available or practicable, then I think you have to keep chipping away. Those regions where people are prepared to live together and enjoy equal rights should be allowed to go their own way. I was attracted particularly by the *indaba's* proposal for a bill of rights."

Dr Ranchod's grandfather came to South Africa from Gujarat in 1910, and settled as a trader in Port Elizabeth. He was part of the wave of Indian immigration that began around 1860 and ended in 1913, when the entry of any new immigrants other than the wives and children of those Indians already settled in South Africa was prohibited.

Most of the early Indian settlers were recruited from southern India to work as contract labourers on the Natal sugar plantations, railways and coal mines. After five years they were free to hire out their services on the labour market.

The Ranchods were among the later group of middle-class immigrants, sometimes called "passenger Indians", who were mostly Muslims from Gujarat (though the Ranchods are Hindus) and who came to South Africa independently, to trade. The family of Dr Ranchod's wife also came from Gujarat, from the coastal town of Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, to whom she is related through her grandmother.

Gandhi spent 21 years in South Africa as a young lawyer, campaigning for Indian rights, before he returned to India to take on the British Raj with notably more success. Dr Ranchod will need all the Mahatma's legendary patience and negotiating skills if he is to turn the anti-South African tide while he is in Brussels.

Michael Hornsby

Going, Believing, going, where? B

A unique English medieval jewel will be auctioned today. Can it be kept in Britain?

A gold locket dating from Richard III's time, and found last year near a castle which belonged to him, goes under the hammer at Sotheby's today. Experts on medieval jewellery have described the Middleham Jewel as one of the most important examples of medieval goldsmith's work to have survived. But they fear it may be sold abroad.

Efforts are under way to prevent this, but if a British buyer fails to secure it at auction (the estimated price is between £200,000 and £300,000), museums in this country might find it hard to match its price, which they would have to do to prevent the issue of an export licence.

Financial incentives exist to encourage owners to offer treasures of this kind to



Golden: the Middleham Jewel

British collections by "private treaty", but the jewel is owned by its three finders and the owner of the land, and unless joint owners all agree to it, private treaty sale is impossible.

"It should be in a British national collection, without doubt," says Mr Ronald Lightbown, Keeper of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum. "Together with the Dunstable swan-badge in the British Museum it is the most important of English medieval jewels."

About the size of a matchbox, the locket is delicately engraved with a nativity scene on one side and the Trinity on the other, with a border of saints and a ring at the top for a chain. It carries an inscription which is partly a line from the Latin Mass, partly a spell in garbled dog-Greek. A bulging kingfisher-hue sapphire is fixed to one side, as bright as ever after 500 years in the dark.

The jewel was discovered a year ago near Middleham Castle, Yorkshire, by Mr Ted Seaton, hunting with two friends for treasure with a metal detector.

"It was a very bad day, and they had decided to give up," says Mrs Vera Seaton, the finder's wife. "When he found it he thought it was just a lady's compact and threw it into the bag of bits of rubbish. While he was getting off his wet clothes, I threw the stuff into a bucket of water to steep. This came up bright and beautiful as soon as I washed it."

George Hill

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1129

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

SOLUTION TO NO 1128
ACROSS: 1 Statute 5 Grab 9 Fabergé 10 Cheat 11 Excel 12 Nudes 13 Loony 15 Sonar 16 Relic 18 Annoy 20 Going 21 Obelisk 23 Ever 24 Escapist
DOWN: 1 Soften 2 Unburden 3 Tar 4 French windows 6 Reek 7 Botany 8 Scallery 11 Estrange 14 Obliging 15 Soigné 17 Casket 19 Fine 22 Era

With crucial Westland figures out today, Peter Davenport looks at the helicopter company's future

A prayer for upward mobility

In the centre of the vast erecting shop at the Westland factory at Yeovil in Somerset, helicopter PFI is still in her pale yellow primer paint, surrounded by scaffolding and swarmed over by men with drills, files and bundles of blueprints. Her maiden flight is due next May, with an appearance at the Paris Air Show the following month.

Eric Newsham, one of the foremen in charge of the team working to produce the first of the new EH101 models, is celebrating his thirtieth year with the company, the last of them the most traumatic. "Everyone here knows what this helicopter means to the company", he says. "We are all praying for its success. After all we have been through in the last year we feel now that we are about to do something. The future hinges on the success of this aircraft."

The long term prospects for Westland helicopters may indeed look rosy. Up to 800 orders worldwide, valued at around £8 billion, are expected for the EH101, developed jointly with the Italian firm Agusta. But there are serious short-term problems which threaten further turmoil, more redundancies and, at worst, the very

'Future is hinged on the success of one aircraft'

ability of the company to survive as an indigenous design and manufacturing company. Throughout last winter and spring the affairs of Westland dominated the headlines. The financial reconstruction necessary to rescue the company from the brink of receivership developed into a political controversy that claimed the front-bench careers of two Cabinet ministers, leaving the Government bruised and the workforce bewildered.

Today the company's first full financial results since the link-up with United Technologies Corporation of the United States and Fiat of Italy will be revealed. In his interim report in June, the chairman, Sir John Cuckney, predicted that the trends would continue to improve. Westland is at pains to emphasize that the company consists of four divisions, which include successful aerospace and technology concerns, and that the reconstruction plan was aimed at diversifying the industrial base. But the problems for the helicopter division, which employs about 6,400 of the 10,500 Westland workforce, will come at the end of next year when existing order books dry up. There will be a three-year delay before the expected order from the Ministry of Defence for more than 125 EH101 helicopters worth around £600 million.

To fill the gap, the company needs the MoD to place orders either for the Sikorsky Black Hawk, which it is allowed to manufacture under the UTC deal, as a replacement for the RAF's ageing fleet of Wessex machines, or to bring forward the date for supply of the EH101. The first Black Hawk from the United States is being assembled at Yeovil and will be used as a demonstrator but there are no definite orders yet.

There is a feeling that if the Government is intent on treating Westland as a purely private sector firm then Westland does not intend to bankroll an ordering policy which does it no favours; in short it will not use funds to endlessly prop up a manufacturing division merely in the expectation of eventual orders when it is firmly confident that it can make a financial success in its other fields.

Mr Donald Berrington, managing director of the Westland helicopter division, hopes that significant orders can be found, either from the Ministry of Defence or the export markets, to carry the company through the production gap. Ideally he would like orders that could be activated quickly without extensive development programmes. A government decision to buy the Black Hawk or the company's Lynx 3 model, would fit the bill. The added benefit of a ministry order would be to encourage the export potential of the chosen machine.

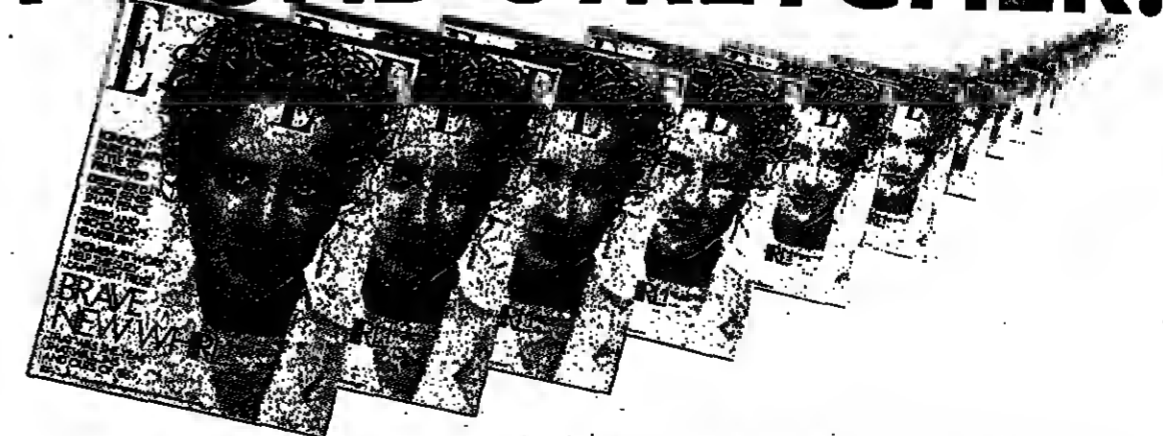
It is emphasized that there is no prospect of another Westland financial crisis. Reports that the Government was considering an approach to British Aerospace to take over the troubled helicopter and support divisions to carry it over the lean period until the 1990s were ridiculed by Sir John Cuckney.

But Westland's workers are worried that a lack of orders from the end of next year could force the company to make substantial redundancies among a highly-trained and specialized workforce, leaving it in no position to take up the expected orders for the EH101. Hugh Stewart, group chief executive, says: "We are now more optimistic and more aggressive in tackling our problems. There is a real cutting edge in the place but it is true that there is a pocket within the helicopter division where there is real concern about job prospects. "We are not misleading the men. They know we are fighting hard, but in their shoes you would expect them to show concern. What we need are orders and the sooner the better."



On the line: Westland boss Donald Berrington, hoping more orders will land in his lap

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CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Believe it or not: Adam and Eve to bent spoons

Beliefs come in several varieties. There are the rational or scientific, believed because there are grounds for thinking that they may be true...

David Jones on the science and pseudo-science to please or to pull legs in Xmas stockings

THE BLIND WATCHMAKER By Richard Dawkins Longman, £12.95

It (and it alone) is competent to explain the enormous diversity of living things in all their extremes of complexity and specialization. It is brilliant exposition, tightly argued but kept readable by plentiful recourse to analogies and examples...

The Monkey Gland Affair, by David Hamilton (Chato & Windus, £11.95) recounts the story of a technological belief, generously laced with wishful thinking...

his fame. When the regulatory authorities at last began to catch up with him, many of his clients rallied to his defence! The whole story is a testimonial to that curse and blessing of all medicine, the placebo effect.

artlessness and touching confidence that the slightest coincidence in his affairs is evidence of psychic forces.

them to dig. The one convincing non-laboratory test - the ability consistently to win money in games of chance or prediction run by professional gambling establishments - he gave up after one evidence.

the need for magic in the modern world, and the masses of eager fans who have welcomed the occult into their lives as a result of Geller's career.



George Tremlett, now settled in Laugharne and running an antiquarian bookshop there, has for years been urging Caitlin Thomas to write the full story of her life with Dylan...

Lives of our time in print

Glyn Daniel

CAITLIN A Warring Absence By Caitlin Thomas with George Tremlett (Secker & Warburg, £20.95)

she writes, "our lives were raw, red, bleeding meat." Yet there are, mercifully, moments of comedy in the tragedy of errors: Caitlin's account of her one night non-stand with William Glock in a Cardiff hotel is unbelievably funny.

I have redeployed some facts and draped others in the camouflage of discretion. Many of the vignettes are of well-known types - almost cardboard stereotypes - and often far less amusing than the totally unreal types portrayed at St. Jim's in The Gem and Greyfriars in The Magnet...



Old School lies

How was it that Dylan, this weak, feckless, callous, insensitive, impecunious sot, wrote some of the great poems of the century, and the incomparable Under Milk Wood? Because Dylan Thomas was a genius, and the grandeur and power of that genius transcended the sordidness of his life...

The Old School, by Simon Raven (Hamish Hamilton, £12.50). Simon Raven has already written much about English public schools in his novels and in his book of memoirs, Shadows on the Grass...

specifically directed towards propagation. "Masturbation or homosexual amusements, of however mild a kind," writes Raven "are therefore doubly damned: they are all, by definition, both extra-marital and sterile."

Used royals: Fergie fever

Hugo Vickers

CROWNED IN A FAR COUNTRY By Princess Michael of Kent (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

In her much publicized book Princess Michael has produced a perfectly competent history of the eight princesses she chose, all of whom are linked at the front in an ingenious family tree. She concentrated on the aspects of these royal ladies' lives that particularly interested her...

Two late arrivals were Debut's Book of The Royal Wedding (Debut, £8.95) and Christopher Warwick and Valerie Garner's Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York (Sidgwick & Jackson, £12.95).

Gardeners experience the passage of time as bringing growth, maturity, and final decay, with the comforting certainty of renewal encapsulated in seed, bulb, and dormant bud. Yet whether we dwell on the cyclical nature of time, or choose to see it as a more directional process...

Having a green Xmas

Ruth Stungo

VARIATIONS ON A GARDEN By Robin Lane Fox (R & L, £10.95)

It would be worth the effort for bulbs are such a satisfactory form of plant life: little power houses, half the work having been done before you even plant them. The illustrations, many of less familiar species, have you reaching for the catalogues; and the author writes well.

ods of preventing their further decline. It is a curious, strangely disjointed book: a rather pedestrian restatement of the very worthy reasons why efforts must be made to conserve, which somehow fails to arouse the enthusiasm.

Londoners: A century from now, this will be a document worthy of its time. The Times. This is a book not to miss. I remember no book at all like it. Peter Levi. £12.95 (hardcover) £8.95 (softcover) Sidgwick & Jackson

A Knight with the Sparkle Virgin: A new collection of poems by Sebastian Faulstich. Available from Tetric Bookshops. 116 Clapham High Street, London SW4 7LJ. Telephone 01 822 5344

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THE TIMES DIARY

Lording it still

Relations between Mrs Thatcher and Neil Kinnock may be at an all-time low, but when it comes to putting the Alliance in its place they can still jostle along.

Getting the bird

The ruling Labour group on Hammersmith and Fulham council, which annually gives £500,000 to the Lyric theatre, will not be contributing to the current success of South African Robert Kirby's anti-apartheid play Beyer's Sunbird.

Race related

Brian Sparks, the Notting Hill police chief being investigated for an alleged racist remark, has not spent all autumn in sick leave.

Caught napping

It will take time for Mike Gatting to live down his lie-in last Saturday that almost held up the start of the day's play against Victoria.

Pass...

Age is a delicate matter: royal protocol undoubtedly includes guidelines on the subject. However, I fancy Princess Alexandra went a trifle overboard when shaking hands with Edith Kirton at Lancaster University last week.

More, to be sure

Brandon Book Publications continues to be a shillalegh in Whitehall's side. Immediately after overturning an injunction against the sale in the Irish Republic of Joan Miller's One Girl's War, it publishes a book by Sinn Féin Gerry Adams.

Roll on

The Advertising Standards Authority has upheld a complaint about a "degrading" ad for Scandinavian kitchens illustrated by a woman clad only in apron and chef's cap.

Today is the 50th anniversary of the abdication of Edward VIII. It may or may not have been "the greatest news story since the Resurrection" (as H.L. Mencken called it), but it certainly benefited rather than damaged the monarchy and never posed any threat to the constitution.

How Edward could have been awkward

by John Grigg

By giving up the throne for love he added yet another fairy-story motif to a tradition that thrives on romance. And by acting strictly on the advice of his ministers, and going like a lamb when they told him that Mrs Simpson could not be Queen or even his morganatic wife, he made sure that there was no constitutional crisis.

Had he been a different sort of man he might have faced Baldwin with a challenge to which there would have been no easy answer, and possibly no answer at all. I am not thinking of the idea of a King's Proxy, which Churchill, from largely self-interested motives, would have liked him to promote.

The King's Party game would have been a disastrous one to play, and Edward was quite right to have nothing to do with it, in his own interest no less than in the interests of the state. But a far subtler game was open to him, by which he might have achieved the result he desired without committing any technical breach of the constitution.

Hardly a month has passed since year without some kind of Opec ministerial meeting. With oil prices collapsing, rebounding and then hovering in nervous discomfort, every session has made its own call on the emotions.

reply to Baldwin's "advice", had taken the following line: "All right, Prime Minister, I understand the position perfectly. According to you, it is out of the question for me to marry Mrs Simpson and remain King. In that case - since I wouldn't dream of renouncing her - I have no choice but to abdicate, and shall of course do so without delay."

"But it is only fair to tell you that I shall insist upon becoming a private citizen, with none of the privileges of royalty but all the rights of ordinary citizenship. And, since I am very concerned about the state of the country at the moment, I shall feel it my duty to take an active part in politics."

"That being so, the proper constitutional course will be to seek election to the House of Commons. I am entirely opposed to Oswald Mosley's style of extra-parliamentary politics. No doubt a by-election will crop up before long - perhaps (who knows?) in my home constituency of Windsor - and I will enter my name for the contest."

"As you know, I already have friends in politics - Mr Churchill

and Mr Lloyd George, to mention only two. I believe, also, that my views on unemployment will appeal to voters on the left, while my background alone may count for something with right-wing voters."

"So it seems that, even if you adhere to the advice you are now giving me, I may still have the pleasure of dealing with you at close quarters in the future. Though we shall no longer be meeting as prime minister and sovereign, we may have plenty of opportunity to meet as fellow parliamentarians."

But the King could very effectively have protested against such treatment, knowing that it would be generally regarded as unfair and mean-minded. In demanding to become a private citizen he would have had a thoroughly popular cause, and the Commons, seeing how popular it was, would probably have been most reluctant to pass Baldwin's disabling law.

Ian Smart looks at Opec's problems as it begins a new bargaining round in Geneva

The case for giving oil prices a hoist



conjured up that prospect have now been abandoned. The Saudi oil minister, Sheikh Yamani, widely but too glibly identified as their author, has been replaced. His erstwhile colleagues now seek a return to fixed prices based on \$18 a barrel while preserving the 1983 quota system.

All in all, with OECD oil consumption growth expected to slow down in 1987, the Opec ministers have only a slim chance of squaring the price-production circle. They will labour long in Geneva, if not always patiently. In the end, however, they are unlikely to emerge with a credible agreement.

The technical difficulties are enormous. The formulas being developed for prices and quotas are so cumbersome and open to so many interpretations that rancour seems inevitable. The fact is that current oil demand will not support oil at \$18 a barrel for more than a few days unless supply is cut to below its present level.

The real lesson is that there has been restored to primacy not some view of how the world oil market will ultimately behave, but rather

Aide memoir Philip Howard: New Words for Old

good managerial practice. "If so, it was a nice scholarly joke. But I am keeping my eyes open for epiphanies and epiphanizing, to see whether they catch on in the blats."

What happens far more often than some adventurous Amerigo Vespucci of the public prints saying something that nobody has thought of saying before is that we read something that strikes us as clever, crisp, it, and before you know where you are the whole Fleet Street pack is buying it until you are sick of it.

"Aide" is a popular Americanism for an important person's adviser or counsellor, someone at the right hand of a prime minister, president or City tycoon. I can see the attraction for headline-writers, because it has four letters instead of seven or ten. If you have to put "counsellor" to a headline, forget it. Many Americanisms are expressive, and enrich the language. I am not sure that "aide" does, as

the old oews editor said: "By trying to be brief, I become obscure."

The Queen does indeed have aides-de-camp drawn from the three services. But when The Times describes Her Majesty's Private Secretary as an aide, and even, a few months ago, the Mistress of the Robes as an aide, it confuses the offices and makes the hair of our older and more courtierly readers stand on end.

Lesser blats without the law, such as the Sun and The Independent imitate us. And before you know where you are, throughout the pubs of England jolly jokes are being made linking royalty with Aids. We should watch it.

Cryptic brevity is one cause of obscurity in Headline English: as in SQUAD HELPS DOG BIT VICTIM. Another cause is double entendre that jerks a dourant metaphor to life. One example is our current passion for loopholes.

might have felt obliged to reconsider his attitude. If not to the idea of Mrs Simpson as Queen, at least to the morganatic proposal. And it is very much on the cards that Edward would then have stayed on the throne, with Wallis as his lawful wife though not, in the full sense, his consort. (In time she might have won enough approval to make her claim to queenly status irresistible.)

It did not happen. Edward lacked the necessary political flair, and perhaps also the will to fight. He abdicated while remaining royal, and his wife was then condemned, for the rest of his and her life, to the morganatic status which had earlier been denied her.

Yet the danger that Edward might become a candidate for Parliament was not lost on his successor, who acted swiftly to ensure that it could never be a reality. On the morning of December 11, 1936, the new King George VI spoke about his brother's future to Sir Charles Skelton, the Lord Chancellor's private secretary.

As the King recorded in his diary: "I suggest HRH D of W [Edward]... If he ever comes back to this country he can stand & be elected to the H of C. Would you like that? S replied No." The King's biographer, John Wheeler-Bennett, quotes this most significant entry without explaining how the King came to be so alert and so interested on the issue.

He was, if possible, even less likely than his elder brother to have been familiar with the argument of The Apple Cart. Somebody, therefore, may have told him about it, or he may just have been showing extreme natural shrewdness. We shall perhaps never know how the idea occurred to him.

What we do know is that Edward became, as the new King wished, HRH the Duke of Windsor, and so forfeited the chance of ever becoming MP for Windsor - or anywhere else.

a set of more pressing political considerations. Some of the politics are internal to Opec members. But the most substantial factors concern relations within the triangle of large Gulf states: Iran, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. What has marked successive Opec meetings has been the unfamiliar constructiveness of Iran's contributions, the emergence of a working alliance between Iraq and Saudi, and the progressive isolation of Iraq. Such developments cannot be explained by reference only to oil politics, let alone the pure economics of the oil market.

After all, the Iran-Iraq war is not about oil, even if it has recently done as much as anything to hold down oil exports and support prices. Wider international politics, coloured by war, are nevertheless seen to dominate what happens in Opec and the oil market. The Geneva conference will reflect that, not alter it.

Reasserting the primacy of politics does not help Opec ministers' chances of success in vying production and price controls into a single parcel. But it does reduce the risk of public failure, simply by increasing its cost. The most likely outcome of the conference, therefore, is another apparently muddled compromise, probably not lifting prices quite into the \$18 bracket, nor keeping Opec's true output at quite its present level, but at least preserving the fragile political balance in the Gulf.

A politically expedient compromise may actually serve most interested parties: importers, as well as exporters. Far higher prices or far lower production limits would soon prove intolerable to either the oil market or Opec. Obscurity in pressing for one or the other would be more likely to set off another bout of instability, or even another price collapse. And that is why politics will militate against such obscurity.

For the most remarkable change of all in 1986 has been not Opec's somersault but the defection of so many outside who began the year by proclaiming the attractions of rock-bottom oil prices. Defaulting debtors, distressed banks, debilitated energy industries, depressed exchequers: the political and social as well as economic repercussions of another oil price collapse look less and less appealing in either Western Europe or North America.

If one thing can protect Opec's leaders in the days ahead from the worst consequences of what is arguably their extraordinary confusion about objectives, it is the fact that cheap oil, when viewed at close quarters in 1986, has turned out to be too expensive for everyone.

The author is an independent consultant on international energy policy.

Loopholes may, I suppose, be legal or illegal, as they tend to be, but when legal loopholes hamper or halt something up, as they do all the time, confusing images of lambs mating with tigers arise in my mind's eye.

Summit is a well-established mountain noun, but the formal meetings between heads of government. It came into vogue, I think, with the meetings between Eisenhower and Khrushchev. An interesting early use came from Winston Churchill in 1950, deploring the Cold War, recalling his wartime meetings with Stalin and Roosevelt, and calling for "a party at the summit".

A meeting may take place at the summit, but it is not itself a summit, in the extreme acceptance of the word. So when a broadcaster, on the Today programme, discussing the manoeuvring between Israel and Egypt over a projected meeting between Peres and Mubarak, said: "Mubarak may be holding up the summit," I flickered to do, widely regarded as rather a weak president. In the new, abbreviated megal headline use, he appears to be lacking in physical strength, but a modern Atlas.

Ronald Butt

No such thing as a Labour win

Mrs Thatcher's debt to Mr Kinnock mounts daily. The more the Labour leader tries to win friends for his party, the more he makes them for the Tories. Words come too easily to him. The more he says in the hope of explaining away the case against Labour and of selling its policies by verbal packaging, the more he inadvertently reveals the realities he seeks to camouflage. It is a pity there is no political Fifth Amendment to protect him.

Thus ever since the Labour Party conference, he has been defending himself and his party against the charges of unpopularity and being anti-Nato. At the conference he declared emotionally (and it makes a good clip for party political broadcasts) he would fight to defend his country. That is interesting, but it is not the point.

Nor does it particularly help the public to know that he would fight if he were in Afghanistan, which is what he said the other week in an article in the Spectator. (Mrs Kinnock, this being a joint interview, added that she would fight in Nicaragua or South Africa.) The truth is that the more Kinnock tries to show that his party is not anti-Nato, the more, blundering in his own words, he establishes that this is what it is.

This is shown less by rejection of an independent British deterrent, arguable on cost grounds, than by Labour's determination to close the US nuclear bases in Britain, yesterday's hedging on a deadline notwithstanding. Above all it is proved by Kinnock's rejection as "dishonest" of sheltering under the Nato nuclear umbrella, which is the cornerstone of Nato deterrent policy. What is so appalling is the sheer silliness of the Labour leader's reasoning, epitomised in a couple of sentences in the same Spectator interview, when Mr John Morrison asked him what he would say to the old Labour voter who remembered the Hitler war and thought Labour had gone pacifist.

"I'd say the first duty of government is to defend the country. I'd say I don't expect people to forget Munich or Poland, but there's no such thing as a winnable war in Europe. Whoever pressed the button, we'd all be destroyed." Yet it is precisely because we would all be destroyed that the deterrent deters, the hutton does not have to be pressed, and our freedom is preserved. Without it the Russians would be free to advance their conventional forces under the umbrella of their nuclear power, and what would Labour's sound-up conventional non-nuclear forces be worth then? That single unqualified, unguarded phrase, "There's no such thing as a winnable war in Europe", exposes the subconscious pacifism which is now at the heart of the dominant wing of the Labour Party from which Kinnock rose.

The opinion polls, which put the Tories ahead and identify Labour's defence policy as the main reason, show that the public understand the issues as clearly as the Americans, who have contemptuously dismissed Kinnock's explanations. When he is forced to explain away Labour's economic and social policies with another deluge of words, these too will be found equally unacceptable because they mean a return to inflation, the old kind of union domination, a highly controlled society and more freedom for the

extremists who now run so much of Labour local government. The Tories are well set to be the beneficiaries of Labour's inequity. But they need more than that, and more than the benefits from falling employment and rising prosperity. Firm and radical manifesto commitments are also essential to ensure that they make a more constructive and imaginative use of their third term than they did of their second. It is here that there are some grounds for misgivings.

Next week the 11 policy groups preparing the basis of the Tory manifesto are due to complete their reports for submission to the Prime Minister. Each is chaired by a Cabinet minister and consists of a Cabinet minister and other outside advisers. These reports will at least have the advantage of being ready well in time to influence the manifesto: that was not the case in 1983 when the comparable exercise was held up by the start of the Falklands war. As a result work did not start until autumn 1982, the reports were not ready until six weeks before the 1983 election, and there was no adequate manifesto.

In 1982, when the whole exercise was in the hands of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Cabinet ministers did not chair the committees. It is probably more sensible that they are now doing so since it exposes them directly to more non-Whitehall discussion of ideas, though some Tories argue that it is inhibiting because ministers cannot encourage the committees to look beyond, or contrary to, what they are already officially doing.

The most important questions lie in the social field, not simply because this is the greatest drain and danger to the economy but because keeping the economy inflation-free (itself a social benefit to everyone) inevitably means periodically cutting back social spending in a manner which damages the good, as well as the wasteful, because we lack proper spending priorities. Like the bank manager, the state offers an umbrella when the sun shines and takes it back in such a hurry when the rain begins that some of the best causes get wet. Wasteful spending by local authorities goes unchecked, but hospitals wards are not built or shut, and universities that have been urged to expand are hastily cut back in the wrong places.

The basic educational and health services need also to be brought into touch with consumers and market forces so that money can go into them which does not go into them now. There are many people who cannot afford to pay for independent schools or health insurance but who would pay something to get a better service if they were allowed to. They are unhappy at the consequences of their being denied any participation in and influence over the system.

On the whole, the outlook for radical thinking on education under Kenneth Baker seems much brighter than for the social and health services. But the same logic applies. People want the services to respond to them, and money not to be wasted. What the Tories have to show is that they have a plan which can in the long run bring better care for everyone than the promised outpouring of a socialist cornucopia which the nation cannot afford to fill.

Toby Young

Student readers begin here

8.30 Saturday night. Dave and Pete have just ordered a round of drinks. Dave is drinking Pils. So is Pete. Dave is wearing a combat jacket, a white, collarless shirt, jeans and monkey boots. So is Pete. Dave wears a badge which says "Cut Trident Not Teachers". They're both pretty left-wing, Dave and Pete, and they both hate fascists. Dave and Pete are students.

There was a time when students used to read things like History and Classics but now they read things like 2000 AD. 2000 AD has this really ace cartoon strip called Judge Dread, which is really relevant because it's got unemployed people in it. Pete prefers the Beano because Dennis The Menace is really brilliant.

After the pub, Dave and Pete are off to a really whacky party. It's being given by this really interesting bloke called Moon. Moon isn't exactly a student, but he's been around for years so they treat him like one. No one's thought to ask him why he's got such a stupid name. It's part of what makes him interesting.

Before they hit Moon's pad, Dave and Pete are going for a smoke with this really brilliant girl called Philippa. Philippa doesn't do anything superficial like washing her hair. Philippa's really relevant. She's been arrested at Greenham, but she's a real laugh. She knows everything there is to know about drugs, about Red Led and Gold Led and Double Zero and Afghan Black. Amazing. She knows more about drugs than normal girls know about make-up.

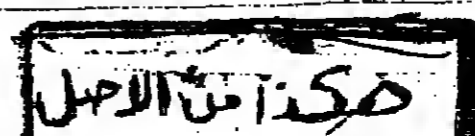
words for drugs - gear, blow, weed, spiff, ganga, herb. Most of the students' heroes are black too, like Steve Biko and Nelson Mandela and Eddie Murphy. Anything from Africa is brilliant, apart from South Africa which is really fascist.

In fact, virtually anything ethnic is OK. Gin Sin, Incense, Yin Yan, J-Ching - really alternative. Students discover India in their year off and from then on all roads point to Mecca.

Meditation is ace. If only all the fascists in the world sat down and meditated instead of spending more money on arms in two weeks than it would cost to feed the entire Third World for a year, then you wouldn't have any wars. War is so stupid, so superficial.

Anything to do with politics is really relevant. Dave used to think that politics was really boring, but now he can't even go into a supermarket without worrying about whether the oranges are from South Africa or the beans from Chile. All processed food is really bad for you and eatog meat is like murder, only worse, because you don't actually kill things yourself.

After Moon's party Dave and Pete go back to Philippa's room and have this really amazing conversation. It's all about this really called acid rain which is really screwing up the environment and killing all the trees in Sweden and mutilating animals and really Thatcherite things like that. Philippa reckons that if you had more women in power you wouldn't get stuff like acid rain. Then Philippa skins up this really mega-spiff and they get really out of it. Then they get the munchies and it turns out Philippa's got these Mars bars and they start doing these really whacky things like licking the chocolate off. Ace.





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OVER THE TOP WITH LABOUR

Labour Party's defence... such a dangerous path, and Healey knows it.

There, of course, exists a respectable case for cancelling the Trident missile.

Had Labour presented a serious exploration of these options, it might have won high marks for effort in the inevitable (and very necessary) debate over British defence.

A critical weakness of Labour's plan is the non-balanced way in which it draws a line between nuclear and conventional forces.

NOT SO MUCH A U-TURN, MORE A...

In its report on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee leads a good deal of support to the "Government in U-turn" view of economic policy.

This is all true. Behind it, however, is the thinly veiled implication that this indicates a fundamental change in the Government's objectives and the underlying methods by which it has sought to achieve them.

Certainly the Government is wiser as well as older than it was in 1979. The optimistic view of the speed of likely progress and the exaggerated faith in the instruments at its command have all been subject to a degree of disillusion.

The Committee's censoriousness is most properly deployed in its comments

THE DARK VEIL OF CENSORSHIP

After more than three decades in which it has strewn all manner of obstacles in the way of those who bear bad tidings, the South African government has finally decided to bind its unwelcome messengers band and foot.

The new powers will be exercised in terms of the State of Emergency and are not, unlike the nearly one hundred rules and regulations which have long curtailed the freedom of the press in South Africa, incorporated in statute and common law.

For, difficult as it may be for Mr P.W. Botha's government to comprehend at a time when it is struggling to pacify black townships riven by violence and anarchy, the state of

mean not just removing one element, but crippling the whole.

When the manifesto talks of strengthening Britain's conventional forces, how many can believe it? Conventional forces are significantly more expensive than nuclear, certainly in terms of their deterrent value.

Can one really see a Labour government, riddled by the Left, increasing the strength of the Royal Navy, the RAF or BAOR? Even if it did, the chance that it would do so by such an amount as to lessen the conventional burden on America, is utterly remote.

But the most damaging flaw in Labour's defence strategy is its threat to end all US nuclear bases in Britain. Here again there is an all-too-ready assumption that the United States would happily consent to the removal of all nuclear weapons, while leaving their conventional troops in place.

Labour's preferences, moreover, do not even extend to the deep-strike options with precision-guided munitions (PGM) favoured by, among others, General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander. New technology in Labour eyes should be concentrated on defensive weapons, backed up by what

sounds like an updated Maginot Line - and a bugle increase reserve strength. Some such means of improving allied defences may be sensible - but not at the expense of everything else.

Mr Kinnock has launched a deep strike offensive of his own by accusing the present Government of presiding over a "serious decline" in the country's armed strength. This too looks singularly off-target. To attack Mrs Thatcher for disarming by stealth (that is, by pouring too many resources into the nuclear programme) carries little conviction. It must be clear to anyone who reads this manifesto that despite all its heavy commitment to a 50-shipy surface fleet and the European Fighter Aircraft programme, defence is likely to assume a significantly lower profile under Labour than it does now.

There is the merest glimpse of an apostasy by the Labour leadership. Mr Kinnock said yesterday that while it would be technically possible to remove all US nuclear bases from Britain in a year, "the political process requires longer discussions". There would be no mass eviction. The manifesto stresses the need for "consultations" with the allies. Has Mr Kinnock ever tried consulting the Nato allies about such fundamental shifts in one side's position?

He will presumably try, along with Mr Healey, to fudge as best he can on crucial questions during the next election campaign. As a prime minister he could not push through policies like these without doing grave harm to British security, safety and national interest. With policies like these may he never get the chance to try.

on public spending. It is fruitless for the Government to claim, as Mr Nigel Lawson did in evidence to the Committee, that the policy with regard to public spending has remained unchanged and only the presentation has altered. At an earlier stage in the Government's life its ambitions to curb public spending were considerably higher.

The stated aim was originally to reduce public spending. This then became one of keeping it level in real terms, and now it is to keep it gently falling as a proportion of the economy. Perhaps the original aim was unrealistic. But the control of public spending is something which is ultimately in the control of the Government and one where the instruments of control are fairly straightforward. Other countries have taken decisions which have been judged politically impossible in the UK. Although the Government has striven it has not succeeded on its own terms.

Whether the Government has succeeded or failed with its monetary policy is not easy to tell because it keeps moving the goalposts. That is the Committee's complaint - that monetary policy is "obscure". In the present state of know-

ledge a degree of obscurity is in the nature of monetary policy. Whereas other countries have succeeded in controlling public spending none has avoided setting monetary targets which subsequently turned out to be inappropriate. Monetary policy remains important, and it remains unsatisfactory. But the Committee's report does not take us any further forward.

The report has some good points to make on other issues. It points out that the public sector borrowing requirement is an ambiguous measure of the fiscal stance at a time of large receipts from privatisation and urges the Government to concentrate on a different measure, the public sector financial deficit, which has fewer disadvantages. It is also concerned that public spending could overrun even its revised plans if the teachers' pay offer sets a precedent with public sector unions.

Ultimately the select committee system is circumscribed by its cross-party nature. The report's only firm recommendation in heavy type is that the Chancellor should tell Parliament first rather than anyone else his innermost thoughts on monetary policy. That is something one which all MPs can agree.

emergency is precisely when a frightened and confused populous needs more news rather than less. To insist, as it has now done, that all reports of resistance - a phrase that could encompass anything from school and consumer boycotts to the opinions of political leaders - will have to be submitted to government officials before publication is to keep white South African opinion blanketed in dangerous ignorance and render it incapable of reaching reasoned decisions about the future of its country.

The ban will also supply endless ammunition to those whose cause feeds on rumour rather than fact. Ultimately it threatens to destroy the government's own tattered credibility and, more important, perhaps, the credibility of the South African press. For despite the erosion of press freedom over decades, South African newspapers have maintained a tradition of vigorous inquiry and dissent unique in Africa and most developing countries. Their vigorous expression of opinion not merely helped to keep free and open debate alive in South Africa, it also gave the lie to the frequently voiced canard that the country was a police state.

The State of Emergency and Pretoria's initial decision to

ban all unrest reports which did not emanate from its own Bureau of Information began to give a gloss of truth to that distortion. Yesterday's move will now make it almost impossible to rebut. It will also make it almost impossible for Pretoria to refute rumours - no matter how false or exaggerated - about the scope of black dissent, the strength of school boycotts, the number of deaths, the identity of the killers, the nature of black demands or the size of African National Congress support.

There can be little doubt that in the past two years occasionally tendentious reporting has played a role in inflaming passions both in and outside South Africa. But press freedom has never been an unalloyed benefit. Its absence, on the other hand, is an unmitigated evil, not least for those governments which decide that they can live without it.

It is to be hoped that Pretoria comes to realize its mistake and reverses its decision. Otherwise those who would promote revolution and chaos in South Africa may themselves come to realize that they can now spread any rumour and advance any slander in support of their cause without fear of contradiction by a discredited government and a muzzled press.

Payment of VAT on bad debts

From Mr Sidney Z. Manches, Sir, An Official Receiver in bankruptcy has told me of the heavy increase in bankruptcy adjudications during the last year or so, particularly on petitions signed by companies in the building and home-improvements businesses.

The reason is not difficult to discover since the problem dates back to the introduction of VAT on the products of those businesses which previously had been zero-rated.

Section 22 of the Value Added Tax Act 1953 (as amended) and the Bad Debt Relief Regulations made thereunder provide that a person who has supplied goods, on which the tax has been paid, to a purchaser who has failed to pay the amount owing and has become insolvent may recover the tax paid from HM Customs and Excise.

The provision is not unreasonable. The legal definition of insolvent is "unable to pay his debts as and when they become due", which would not be difficult to prove if, following one or two unsuccessful demands for payment, inquiries are made.

Unfortunately, the Act itself provides a very different definition of when an individual becomes insolvent. He is to be adjudged bankrupt or have entered into a deed of arrangement or composition approved in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1985.

As a consequence, creditors are obliged, frequently against their will, to bankrupt some wretched debtor from whom they might otherwise have accepted a modest instalment payment or even cancelled the debt entirely, solely to enable the 15 per cent VAT on the debt to be recovered.

Bankruptcy, if not an actual disgrace, is a traumatic experience for any person to go through, particularly the unfortunate individual who may be in this predicament through no fault of his own, perhaps because he has lost his job.

Inspectors of taxes, not the most generous of revenue collectors, will allow a bad debt for relief against income tax on reasonable proof, far short of bankruptcy, that the debt is bad. The regulations laid down by this Act are a scandal which Parliament should remedy without delay.

Yours faithfully, SIDNEY Z. MANCHES, 10 Duke Street, W1, December 9.

Fight against Aids

From Mr J. R. H. Chisholm, Sir, It is all very well for Mr Stokes (December 4) to blame the Church for inadequately extolling the Christian virtues of chastity and fidelity in marriage, but Parliament has been devaluing marriage for years.

Not only do the tax laws benefit living in sin rather than marriage, but the lot of illegitimate children and one-parent families has been progressively ameliorated for admirable short-term humanitarian reasons, regardless of the long-term consequences, which persist "unto the third and fourth generations".

Yours faithfully, J. R. H. CHISHOLM, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, December 4.

From the Bishop of Birmingham

Sir, The pride of place given in The Times today to the letter of Mr John Stokes, MP, is revealing. Mr Stokes complains that bishops have given no leadership about chastity recently in the House of Lords (Hansard, November 18, col 158) The Times, alone among the "quality" dailies, chose not to report it.

Perhaps Mr Stokes's strictures are addressed to the wrong target? Yours faithfully, HUGH BIRMINGHAM, Bishop of Birmingham, Old Church Road, Harborne, Birmingham, December 4.

Locum services

From Mr Leonard Allen, Sir, Your recent articles (November 24, 27) about locum medical services ignore the fact that there already exists a code of practice, agreed in 1979 by the DHSS and the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services, to regulate such services. It seeks to establish a parallel between pay rates for agency locum doctors and their colleagues in full-time employment in the NHS.

Locum medical services are not admitted to the federation until they have been carefully interviewed and their stability established.

In accordance with legislation, careful checks are carried out on references, medical defence cover and qualifications. This information is made available to hospitals before the locum arrives to take up duties.

Engaging locum doctors from agencies in membership of the FRES is cheaper than engaging staff direct to fill short-term vacancies. Locum doctors receive no holiday pay, sickness pay or paid study leave and are likely to need to relocate frequently at great personal expense and inconvenience to fill bookings. Yours faithfully, LEONARD ALLEN, Director, Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services Limited, 10 Belgrave Square, SW1, December 2.

A boost, not a crutch, for the arts

From Lord Kissin of Camden, Sir, We are used to the fact that every year the reaction to Government spending on the arts is one of general disappointment. This year, however, it appears to me that the crisis are considerably louder and the groans more widespread than before.

There is more than a hint from the Government in their various announcements that, whilst they are ready to offer the arts a temporary crutch, in future the arts should look to sponsorship from the private sector and other sources.

In the past years the Arts Council has most honourably supported some 1,200 projects, many of them on a very small scale, and has spent well over half its funds outside London. If this policy is continued, admirable though it might have been in other circumstances, the major national institutions, not only in London but all over the country, will begin to be starved of the cash they need to ensure their continued ability to function at least at their present scale and at least in their present high standard.

I would now advocate that we should look most seriously at the proposal made in the Priestley report on the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1983, that specific funds for the support of named institutions should be earmarked within the Government's general funding of the arts. I would support the proposal that those earmarked funds should be channelled through the Arts Council, as the Chairman of the Royal Opera House has himself recently suggested.

I would like to make three points.

1. It is essential that the Government and the public should realise that the standards of excellence maintained by the national institutions are in no sense elitist, but are, on the contrary, fundamental for the preservation and progress of our national artistic life. They are a constant reminder of what can be achieved, and are a bastion against mediocrity and lack of discrimination.

2. The Government's grant-in-aid is not quite as generous as it would appear, as long as the Chancellor claws back a large part through the imposition of VAT on the arts.

3. The standards of excellence we have maintained in our national artistic life are essential for Britain's worldwide artistic reputation. This in turn is what enables us to continue to derive those benefits we enjoy from the arts, in the shape of invisible earnings and increased employment.

Finally, the Government could give a demonstration of its belief that the general public, and particularly business and industry, have a social responsibility to support the arts by lowering the burden of VAT and increasing tax advantages.

The Chancellor has given signs of loosening the purse strings elsewhere. Why not, therefore, follow the more generous Ameri-

can policy of offering wider tax deductions for sponsorship of the arts? Yours faithfully, KISSIN OF CAMDEN, 32 St Mary at Hill, EC3.

From Lord Donoughue, Sir, It would be unfortunate if your readers swallowed at face value the figures on arts expenditure cited in the letter from Gerald Bowden, MP (December 1).

His claim that central government expenditure on the arts has increased since 1979 by 28 per cent presumably includes the temporary replacement funding which partly compensates for the loss of money following the abolition of the metropolitan counties. Not even the Arts Minister has ever attempted to massage the statistics in this way and in his statement of November 8 the Minister claimed a real increase of only 8 per cent.

That percentage is arrived at by using the "GDP deflator". If the conventional retail price index is used (as recommended in the 1982 Peacock report), the result would be a 3.1 per cent decrease. Using the earnings index - certainly relevant to the arts with such a high proportion of their costs in staff pay - the result is a more devastating decline of over 6 per cent.

Mr Bowden claims a 5.8 per cent increase in next year's arts allocation, but does not mention that this includes £8.8million for the special capital expenditure on the British Museum extension. Without that the increase is 2.6 per cent. I do not know what rate of inflation Mr Bowden anticipates but he should know that most City economists expect an outcome in the range 4-6 per cent and some much higher, that would indicate a real cut by March 1988.

As often, it depends on which way the numbers are juggled. Even if Mr Bowden's figures were correct, the money we donate to the arts is unforgettably small. Yours faithfully, BERNARD DONOUGHUE, House of Lords.

From the Chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, Sir, Lord Kenyon (November 22) argues cogently the National Portrait Gallery's case for additional space on the dental hospital site.

The Museums and Galleries Commission strongly reaffirms the support it has given to the gallery's plea for extra space in its present location ever since the 1972 White Paper, when David Eccles was Minister for the Arts.

The dental hospital scheme is not the chance of a lifetime; it is the chance of the century. It would ideally complement the planned extension to the National Gallery, and create a cultural complex linking Trafalgar and Leicester Squares. It deserves support from both public and private sources.

Yours truly, BRIAN MORRIS, Chairman, Museums and Galleries Commission, 7 St James's Square, SW1, November 27.

The Awacs variation

From the Chairman of The General Electric Company, plc

Sir, In your leader on Britain's airborne early warning system (December 10) you criticise the Callaghan Government for making the "wrong decision for the right reasons" and then advise the Thatcher Government to make the wrong decision for no reason at all.

Neither Nimrod nor Awacs (airborne warning and control system) currently meets the RAF cardinal point specification. However, GEC has demonstrated an ability to bring its systems to full specification and we presume Boeing can as well.

Since March of this year GEC has had complete responsibility for managing this project and it has been working with its own money for half of the cost. There have been none of the bureaucratic delays; the committees, which met but never took decisions.

We now have an AEW Nimrod which, in Mr Younger's words, works. The aircraft can be delivered within three years and to the

standard laid down by the ministry. In delivery and cost we can beat Awacs, and since it is a more modern system, it can be stretched to meet increasing demands over the next 30 years.

It is true that Nimrod is smaller than Awacs, but this very fact has necessitated a higher degree of automaticity, the same tasks with fewer operators, and a computer with ten times the capacity of the present one.

Lockheed will co-operate with us in a lucrative export market, so you are wrong to suggest this market has already been forfeited; Boeing understand this, even if you do not.

The difference between the two systems lies in the cost, the delivery time, the export potential for Britain and the effect on employment. On each issue the GEC proposal is more beneficial to the British people. The duty of the British Government is clear. Both systems will defend Britain, but only GEC will defend British industry.

Yours faithfully, JIM PRIOR, Chairman, The General Electric Company, plc, 1 Stanhope Gate, W1.

Breath of summer

From Mrs O. Lever

Sir, Yesterday (December 7) I picked in my garden broom, roses, heather, japonica, geum, daisy, cow parsley, corn marigold, huttercup, dandelion, scrypt pim-pernel, herb Robert, ivy-leaved toadflax, wild strawberry, evergreen alkanet, sweet violet, hawkweed, soft comfrey, and two varieties of poppy, periwinkle and chamomile and there was a primrose in bud, which beats Mrs Walker (December 6). Yours faithfully, J. LEVER, Blackacre, Park Road, Plumtree, Nottingham, December 8.

From Sir David Serpell

Sir, On a cliff-path near here, well to the west of Mrs Walker's garden, my wife and I today (December 6) found - and did not pick! - some 40 different wild flowers. Amongst them were violets, milkworks, bell heather, thyme, sea thrift, bladder campion, scabious, tormentil and stitchwort.

Floreat Devonial Yours sincerely, DAVID SERPELL, 25 Crossparks, Dartmouth, Devon, December 6.

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Burnham's demise

From Councillor John Hart

Sir, Your leader today (December 1) refraining from weeping over the demise of Burnham finds my eyes dry, too.

Both Burnham committees have outlived their usefulness. Yes both. Mr Kenneth Baker has not mentioned the Burnham further education committee. That, too, must go.

With the development of the 16-19 age group's education through tertiary colleges, manpower services initiatives etc, a salary/working conditions body needs to be developed which is appropriate to that area. At present, teachers and college lecturers can claim overtime (and do, sometimes generously); teachers cannot.

That leaves lecturers in polytechnics and major colleges who do advanced work. At present no one covers them. They are lumped with college lecturers, although what they do is akin to university work. Surely they should be catered for by a separate panel of some sort? Very truly yours, JOHN HART, London Borough of Barnet, Members' Room, Town Hall, Hendon, NW4.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 11 1928

Although overshadowed by the Upper Ganges canal scheme in the same Indian state, one of the great irrigation works in the world, the Sarda canal, was extended in 1941. Its overall length, including its branches, of 7,236 miles made it one of the longest. United Provinces was renamed Uttar Pradesh when India became a republic in 1950.

IMMENSE CANAL SYSTEM

ACHIEVEMENT IN INDIA

(From a Correspondent in Oudh.) To-day Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces, formally opens the Sarda Canal, and the day will be memorable even in the wonderful history of irrigation in India. It is the first large irrigation work that has been done in the United Provinces in many years. Its achievement is remarkable for the uncommon difficulties and dangers that have attended its construction; and it will be the longest canal system in the world.

The provision of a canal for utilizing in the Ganges-Gogra watershed the enormous volume of water which has hitherto run to waste in the Sarda river has been one of the most contentious questions for more than half a century in the history of Indian irrigation. It has been frequently argued that the cultivators would not use the water; but any remaining doubts on this question have now been set at rest by the eagerness with which they have applied for the supply to begin.

GREAT ENGINEERING FEAT

The Sarda river rises in the Himalayas, and in its upper reaches forms the boundary between the United Provinces and Nepal. During heavy floods the river has been known to discharge 550,000 cubic feet a second, or over 30 times as much as the great Thames flood of last winter. The flow rarely falls below 5,000 cubic feet a second. A barrage consisting of 34 bays, each of 50ft span, has been constructed across the river at Bahabasa (43 miles north-east of Pilibhit), the point where the river debouches into the plains. The openings will be closed by steel gates constructed by Messrs. Glenfield and Kennedy, of Kilmarnock, who also supplied the 16 gates, each 20ft long, for the canal head. The canal itself has a bed width of the head of 350ft, and with a full supply depth of 8.1ft, will discharge 9,500 cubic feet a second.

This great scheme comprises about 4,000 miles of canal and distributing channels, commanding an area of over 7,000,000 acres - that is to say, a region as large as all the fertile land of Egypt. In a dry year over 1,500,000 acres will be irrigated. The country which will receive water is already highly cultivated, and the introduction of the canal, besides relieving distress and obviating heavy expenditure on relief works in famine years, will lead to a better class of crops being grown, and more particularly to the development of sugar-cane.

DANGERS AND DISEASE

Few more difficult engineering tasks have ever been undertaken than the construction of the upper reaches of the Sarda project. The headworks and the main canal for its entire length of 27 miles, as also one of the main branches for a further 40 miles, lie in the depths of one of the most unhealthy forest tracts in Northern India. None but aboriginal tribes, who inhabit clearings in the forest, could survive the deadly climate. During the first years of construction (the work began at the end of 1920) officers and labourers suffered much, and a heavy expenditure on anti-malarial work had to be incurred before the headworks could be rendered reasonably healthy. Even in the later years it has been necessary to suspend work and withdraw labour and staff for four months each summer.

Nor was this all. Wild animals, particularly wild elephants and tigers, made it all but impossible to hold the labour collected for the work. When gangs of dacoits added a further terror it was only by introducing a light railway and armed police that the necessary sense of security could be instilled into the labourers to get them to stay on the work.

The great scheme will take some time to develop fully; but in dry years there will always be a keen demand for water, and as time goes on its benefits in raising the standard of cultivation will be realized even in wet years. It is anticipated that the project will yield to the State a net annual return of 7 per cent on the capital outlay of about £7,500,000. But the benefits to the humble cultivator have been brought at a heavy cost in the vitality of the men that gave them. Several engineers have been almost permanently incapacitated owing to working under malarial conditions in the Terai, and it was only by the most elaborate medical precautions that the scheme could materialize.

Wheels and woe

From Mr J. Pierson

Sir, The Austin Montego was the first car to be selected to carry the coveted Design Council label.

It has just taken me one hour of solid toil, a bottle brush, a box of tissues and copious amounts of methylated spirit to clean the 224 holes in the wheel trims.

The 16 circular inserts have, to date, defeated me. Perhaps the Design Council has developed a suitable tool.

Yours faithfully, J. PIERSON, 6 Duval Close, Barnford, Rochdale, Lancashire, December 6.

Effect of higher taxation is relevant in damages award

Thomas v Wignall and Another
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Nicholls [Judgment December 10]

In assessing the damages payable to an injured plaintiff for loss of future earnings and the cost of future care, a judge was entitled to take into account the effect which higher taxation would have on a larger award.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the two defendants, J. R. Wignall and South Glamorgan Area Health Authority, from Mr Justice Hutchinson who on December 20, 1985, awarded the plaintiff, Linda Thomas, suing by her next friend Frank Lack Maffey, damages totalling £679,264.

Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr Michael Baker for the defendants; Mr Malcolm Pill, QC and Mr Vernon Pugh, QC, for the plaintiff.

Camden and Islington Area Health Authority (1980) AC 174 and argued that just as no account should normally be taken of future inflation, since that would be offset by the resulting higher interest rates, no account should be taken of higher taxation either.

In *Cookson v Knowles*, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton observed, at p577: "In exceptional cases, where the annuity is large enough to attract income tax at a high rate, it may be necessary for the court to have expert evidence [as to its effect]. Whether in such cases it might be appropriate to increase the multiplier, or to allow for future inflation in some other way would be a matter for evidence in each case."

Without referring to the authorities, it was clear to his Lordship that, as a general rule, taxation bore and would continue to bear more heavily on the income of a large award of damages than on that of a small one.

Hence there was a material distinction from the outset between a very large award and a comparatively modest one, which one would expect a court to take into account when determining the award. Of course, prudent investment planning could mitigate or offset some of the rigours of higher rates of tax; but where, as in the present case, the fund would have an annual income of over £30,000, it was unrealistic to expect a court to take into account when determining the award.

Nevertheless, although the questions were different, Lord Fraser's approach to the question before him was consistent with the incidence of high rates of tax being a factor properly to be taken into account when answering the question arising in the instant case.

Furthermore, Lord Fraser's statement that in exceptional cases expert evidence might be necessary could not be read as indicating that in every case such evidence was an essential prerequisite to making any allowance for tax reasons.

In the *Lim Poh Choo* case, the House of Lords had not had to consider, or reject the question whether, regardless of future inflation, any adjustment should be made for the heavier tax on the large fund involved in that case. That did not seem to have been argued in that case, which was therefore an insecure base for the defendants' argument.

In the present case, the judge's choice of 14 as a multiplier and his adjustment of it to 15 to take account of higher taxation was not unreasonable in the circumstances. His Lordship also considered, and rejected a number of other grounds of appeal.

Musa v La Maitre
Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Mr Justice Tudor Evans [Judgment December 4]

In proving an offence under section 21(4A) of the Copyright Act 1956, as inserted by section 1 of the Copyright Act 1956 (Amendment) Act 1982, it was not necessary for the prosecution to call the actual owners of the copyright to establish the existence of copyright.

The prosecution were required to prove that copyright subsisted, that first authorized publication took place in a country to which the section extended and that the copies were infringing copies, but it was sufficient if they were able to establish those elements through the evidence of witnesses other than the makers or owners of the copyright.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court allowed an appeal against a conviction upon one charge but dismissed the appeal against a conviction on a second charge by the defendant, Abdul Musa, on information laid by the prosecutor, Christopher Le Maitre, an officer of the Federation Against Copyright Theft, before Newham Magistrates on February 20, 1986. Mr Allen Dyer for the defendant; Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that the defendant was charged upon two informations which alleged that at a time when copyright subsisted in certain cinematograph films he had in his possession by way of trade articles which he knew to be infringing copies of the films, contrary to section 21(4A) of the 1956 Act, as inserted.

The first charge related to six English language films and the second related to 308 Indian language films. The defendant submitted that it was important for the prosecution to prove that at the time the offence took place copyright subsisted in the various films.

It was said that it had to be shown that the first authorized publication of the films took place in the United Kingdom or another country to which section 21(4A) extended. By virtue of the Copyright (International Conventions) Order (1979) SI No 1715) the United States of America, where the English language films were made, and India were countries to which section 21(4A) extended.

The prosecution called a number of witnesses in the category of licensees who deposed that the defendant had not discharged the onus on him of proving that copyright subsisted in relation to the English language films.

Section 18(3)(c) defined an "infringing copy" as "a copy of the film, the making of which constituted an infringement of the copyright in the film . . . or, in the case of an imported article, would have constituted an infringement of that copyright if the article had been made in the place into which it was imported."

Accordingly, that was what had to be established and it was the means of establishing it which had given rise to controversy. The magistrates were justified in inferring from the evidence called in the case of the Indian films that copyright subsisted and that the copies were not authorized copies so that the ingredients of the offence were made out.

But in the case of the English language films there was no evidence similar to that in the case of the Indian films. There was no factual evidence as to where the films were first published.

The only evidence was that of the prosecutor himself who examined the films and deduced that they were American and bore all the hallmarks of pirate copies. Accordingly, the prosecution had not discharged the onus on them of proving that copyright subsisted in relation to the English language films.

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Warned List changes

Warned List Exercise
In the course of a statement on December 10 in the Queen's Bench Division on a Warned List exercise held on November 7, Mr Justice Michael Davies said that in his capacity as the present judge in charge of the Lists, he had directed the Clerk of the Lists that while solicitors should not lodge consents to postpone cases in the Warned List, the clerk had a discretion whether to accept or refuse such consents and that as a general rule, consents were not accepted.

His Lordship had been asked by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice and Lord Justice Watkins to conduct an inquiry into the list, for an informal letter that their cases would be listed for review on November 7, when his Lordship would expect to be informed of the up-to-date position in every case.

By the November 7, 97 of those cases had either settled or hearing dates had been offered and they had disappeared from the Warned List.

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL DAVIES said that judges and those who ran the courts were not well-informed by letter that their cases would be listed for review on November 7, when his Lordship would expect to be informed of the up-to-date position in every case. By the November 7, 97 of those cases had either settled or hearing dates had been offered and they had disappeared from the Warned List.

No duty on pedestrian to keep a look-out

Trensayne v Hill
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Sir Roger Ormrod [Judgment November 25]

A pedestrian when crossing a multiple road junction was not under a duty either (1) to keep a look-out for motorists entering the junction against red traffic lights or (2) to make use of an adjacent pedestrian-controlled crossing.

It followed that a motorist who failed to stop at traffic lights was 100 per cent liable in negligence for injuries that he caused when colliding with a pedestrian who was crossing over the road junction. The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Dennis Beverley Hill, from a decision of Mr Justice Macpherson, sitting at Blackpool District Registry on November 27, 1985, that he was solely liable for the injuries suffered by the plaintiff, Mr David William Trensayne.

when the traffic lights were red against the defendant. The defendant, who was not travelling fast, apparently had failed to see the plaintiff.

The judge found that the accident was caused wholly by the defendant's negligence. On the appeal, the defendant suggested contributory negligence by the plaintiff of, perhaps, 50 per cent. It was said that there was a duty on the plaintiff to keep a proper look-out and to ensure that it was safe for him to cross before stepping out into the junction.

Further, it was argued that the plaintiff ought to have crossed at the adjacent light-controlled pedestrian crossing rather than where he had. There was no duty in law imposed on a pedestrian only to cross at a light-controlled crossing. He could cross where he liked providing he took reasonable care of his own safety.

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Sentencing for thefts from students

Regina v Connolly

Those who were convicted of "walk-in" thefts from students' rooms at universities and other institutions must expect to receive very severe sentences.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Mr Justice Michael Davies and Mr Justice Roch) so stated on November 24 when dismissing the appeal of Kevin Francis Connolly against the sentence of six years' imprisonment imposed on him on July 8, 1986 at Oxford Crown Court (Mr Justice McNeil) on his plea of guilty to nine offences of burglary of student residences at Oxford and Cambridge, at a nurses' home in Guildford and at a probation hostel in Oxford, and to two offences of using a false instrument (using stolen cheques to obtain cash). Sixty-six further offences were taken into consideration.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that that kind of "walk-in" theft was a pestilential offence. It caused considerable hardship and difficulty to students, particularly in these days when many of them were on grants which might not be adequate for their needs.

The courts had got to make it clear that very severe sentences would be imposed on men who behaved like that, getting into students' rooms when they were out (for example at lectures) and stealing valuables which were much prized and which students had difficulty in replacing.

Home Secretary failed to consider illiteracy in immigration appeal

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Dinesh
Before Mr Justice Russell

Insufficient regard was paid by the Home Secretary to evidence that an applicant for registration as a British citizen, pursuant to section 8(1) of the British Nationality Act 1981 (registration of a woman by virtue of marriage), was illiterate and innumerate.

His Lordship rejected the contention that so many parties were entitled to put off their cases as long as their solicitors requested. Such cases impeded the smooth and consistent progression of the Warned List. Requests to vacate fixed dates also caused great problems.

His Lordship had given the following directions to the Clerk of the Lists: 1 While solicitors had the right to lodge consents to postpone cases in the Warned List, the Clerk of the Lists had the right to accept or refuse them. It was impossible to lay down arbitrary criteria, but some factors involved were the age of the case and the length of postponement requested.

2 As a general rule consents to vacate fixed dates should be accepted. The Clerk of the Lists had a discretion. 3 If the Clerk of the Lists refused consents in either of the above categories, she could refer the matter to the judge in charge of the lists. To save costs, written representations would be considered by the judge, but parties were always entitled to apply by counsel to the judge, or, after considering any written representations, the judge might direct that they should do so.

Consents should be far more informative than they often were. Finally, his Lordship urged counsel, their solicitors and clerks to have cases ready for hearing on the fixed date, or when it was likely to be listed, and to make every effort to give full information to the Clerk of the Lists (to be put or confirmed in writing).

MR JUSTICE RUSSELL said that the only basis for the refusal by the secretary of state was that the applicant failed to show that she was the wife of Mr Dinesh. In all other respects it was accepted that the necessary criteria under section 8(1) were satisfied.

The applicant, now aged 30 and born in India, was illiterate and innumerate. She had been previously married at 16 and

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A SPECIAL REPORT

Making neutrality work both ways

Finland, a small country on the doorstep of a large and powerful one, has pursued a foreign policy which combines good relations with the Soviet Union and close ties to the West. The post-war period has been marked by political stability and a growing economy

For the last few years Finland has experienced a period of unprecedented political calm, coupled with economic prosperity. Unlike earlier short-lived governments, the four-party coalition headed by Kalevi Sorsa has remained in office since its formation after the 1983 general election.

But this calm is now turning to busy speculation as the Finns prepare for two crucial elections. A general election will be held next March, followed by a presidential election 10 months later, in January, 1988.

At issue will be the position of the Conservative Party which has not been in government since the 1960s but which is now the second biggest party and is being courted by both the Social Democrats, the biggest party, and the Centre Party. Also at issue is whether the communists, once a powerful force in Finnish politics, will continue their headlong decline.

One thing is certain. Given the country's system of proportional representation, no party can even dream of having a majority of its own in the Eduskunta, the single-chamber Parliament.

Usually the biggest party receives roughly a quarter of the vote and a quarter of the seats, and elections are followed by often difficult negotiations for the formation of a new coalition.

Finland has long held a distinctive position on the European scene. As a result of its long border with the Soviet Union, and the two wars it fought with Russia in 1939-40 and 1941-44, it has evolved its

own sophisticated form of neutrality. This enables it to have a treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance with Moscow while politically and economically it has close links with Western Europe.

The policy is known as Paasikivi line after the country's president in the post-war period, and in its essentials it is not going to change, whatever coalition is formed next year.

But it has led to certain inhibitions on Finnish political life, in the understandable interests of not upsetting the Russians; and participation in the Conservatives in the government would be significant because it was generally assumed to be objections from Moscow which kept them out in the past.

The tight control over Finnish political life maintained for many years by former President Urho Kekkonen, often on the grounds that any alternative to him and his policies would disturb Moscow, has been eased by his

successor, Mauno Koivisto. There has also, significantly, been more open criticism of the Soviet Union in recent years, reflecting a public opinion that has no illusions about its neighbour. But such criticism is still limited, and is not officially encouraged.

The present coalition is centre-left and made up of the Social Democrats, Mr Sorsa's party, the Centre Party, the Swedish People's Party, representing Finland's Swedish-speaking minority, and the populist Rural Party.

Of these, only the Rural Party is expected to lose heavily, so that there is a temptation to continue the co-operation between the Social Democrats and the Centre Party which has been the backbone of most coalitions since the war.

But the Conservatives have grown in strength recently, which means that it is more and more difficult to leave them out.

There is in addition a close connection with the presidential election due in 1988. President Koivisto, a Social Democrat, is a clear favourite for re-election, but Paavo Vayrynen, the Foreign Minister, has already been nominated by the Centre Party, which he leads.

Mr Vayrynen is an ambitious man who has his eyes on the 1994 election, if not next year's, and his only chance of winning either is by getting the support of a broad non-socialist front including the Conservatives.

It is the long rivalry of the Conservatives and the Centre Party which has led to the situation in which both the presidency and the prime ministership are held by Social Democrats, and many non-socialists would like to see an end of it.

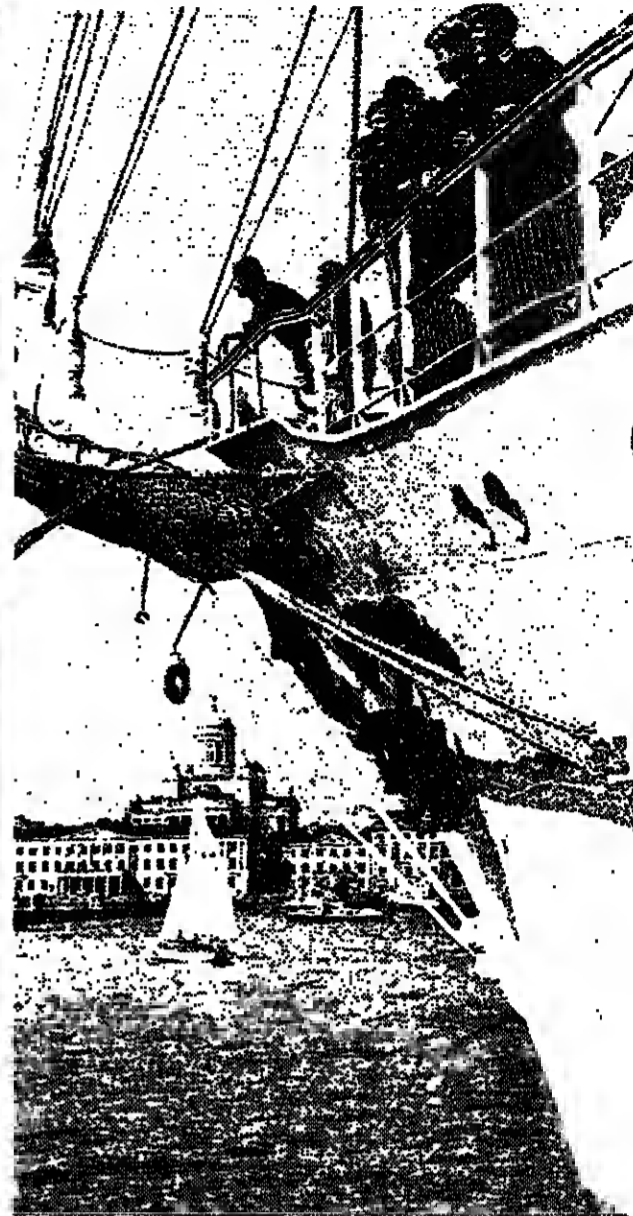
The decline of the communists is another sign of a long-term evolution in Finnish life. The Communist Party (SKP) was the biggest party in the post-war period and had 25 per cent of the vote as recently as 1958. But for a number of reasons, not least the country's increasing prosperity, it has lost more than half its support.

The long-term wrangling in the party has now led, for the first time, to the communists going into the election split into two separate parties.

The Eurocommunist majority has retained its grip on the SKP, and on the SKDL, the front organization in Parliament, which includes a handful of independent socialists. But the Stalinist faction has been forced to form its own organization, Deva.

Each wing had hoped for exclusive support from Moscow, but both were disappointed last month when the Soviet party let it be known that it would maintain relations with both. And according to opinion polls both face the prospect of losses in the election.

Olli Kivinen



Background influence: Finland's President Mauno Koivisto, top left, is watched over by a huge portrait of Lenin as he meets a Soviet delegation. Helsinki's South Harbour, above, is dominated by the neo-classical domes and pediments of the Lutheran cathedral. Nearby, the city's fish sellers ply from their boats

No fears of the mighty neighbour

Max Jakobson, the Finnish diplomat and author, wrote not long ago: "Finland is forever at the mercy of the itinerant columnist who after lunch and cocktails in Helsinki is ready to pronounce himself upon the fate of the Finnish people."

"A person visiting, say, London for the first time, who does not know English and has only a vague notion of the significance of Dunkirk or the role of Winston Churchill, would hardly be regarded as qualified to comment on the British scene today."

"An equally profound ignorance about Finland is no deterrent..." This much, and more, Finland has in common with its close Nordic relatives; the perception abroad that because a nation is blessed with a small population and relative freedom from the depredations of mass tourism it must be an uncomplicated society whose nature is instantly comprehensible to the minority of sophisticated globe-trotters who visit from time to time.

The resulting clichés differ slightly from one Nordic country to another but the exasperation they arouse, verging at times on fury, is much the same. Next time you meet a Norwegian or Swede, try describing Oslo or Stockholm as "provincial".

And if you ever should happen to find yourself in Helsinki, see what happens when you raise the subject of "Finlandization" - by which Finland is said to have come under Soviet influence. The reaction will be sharp.

Questioned on Finlandization, Finns argue with increasing vehemence that there has not been, even in the immediate post-war years, any question of subservience to, or fear of, their mighty neighbour to the east. That has been a conceit of the superpowers and of those who tend to define everything that happens in terms of superpower politics.

What danger there is, may well in fact emanate from the West, as the benefits of integrated trading and financing activities threaten to exact a heavy price in the cultural vitiation of a complex and almost brutally self-reliant society.

On this view the much discussed "balancing act" between East and West is in the end more a balance of national interests than of ideologies or apprehensions. The facts, it is argued, speak for themselves: Helsinki is one of only three belligerent European capitals - the others are Moscow and London - not to have been occupied during the Second World War.

About 80 per cent of Finland's foreign trade is with the West.

Finland is now the sixth richest nation in Western Europe.

The Finnish communist movement, in which a long-standing schism has during the past year been formalized into two separate parties, is an impotent stambling, and has been for years.

Finland is a neutral nation and has been since the war. In this regard, Mr Jakobson makes a very telling point:



"All the countries liberated by the Western allies are now members of Nato; all the countries liberated by the Soviet Union are members of the Warsaw Pact. The only countries which remain outside the two blocs are those which managed to stay out of the war, plus two: Finland, which was not occupied, and Yugoslavia, which liberated itself."

The death this year of former President Urho Kekkonen, venerated as one of the architects of Finnish neutrality, was an event of great symbolic significance. But his successor, Dr Mauno Koivisto, had long since established his own style, which follows the same general lines, and in October he reaffirmed it in a thoughtful speech coincidentally delivered barely a week after the Reykjavik summit.

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the president's address to the Paasikivi Society caused almost as much of a stir in the Nordic countries as the summit itself.

Dr Koivisto spoke in favour of a Nordic nuclear-free zone, supported by Finland. But his most novel departure was his suggestion of a new agreement on confidence-building measures designed to prevent naval clashes in the Nordic region.

He referred to the naval build-up in the region, and to the fact that both ships and air-

craft were now carrying cruise missiles, and specifically to Swedish concern over the activities of Soviet submarines.

Starting points for such confidence-building measures already existed, he suggested, in the 1972 agreement between the Americans and the Russians designed to prevent incidents at sea, and that should be extended to other countries' warships.

He concluded: "There should be an effort to favour restraint in implementing sea exercises and landing manoeuvres and, in the final analysis, to tone down the arms race."

Unexceptionable sentiments, surely, especially from the president of a neutral and admirably stable nation. But the exegeses raged on for weeks. The final consensus was that it exemplified unmistakably, by addressing its suggestions and implied criti-

cisms to the East as well as to the West, the neutrality of Finland.

Any Finn will explain this to you, patiently and at length, if you but ask. They are a kindly people that way and admirably eloquent in a foreign tongue - their own language, as is vividly put by Jaakko Iloniemi, general manager of the Union Bank of Finland, having functioned for untold centuries "not only as an impediment to reaching out, but also as a protective wall against foreign intrusion".

But given all that, at this late date, might it be just possible, where this precious neutrality of the Finnish nation is concerned, that the Finns continue to protest just a shade too much?

That's not for me to say, of course - not even after lunch and cocktails in Helsinki.

Tony Samstag

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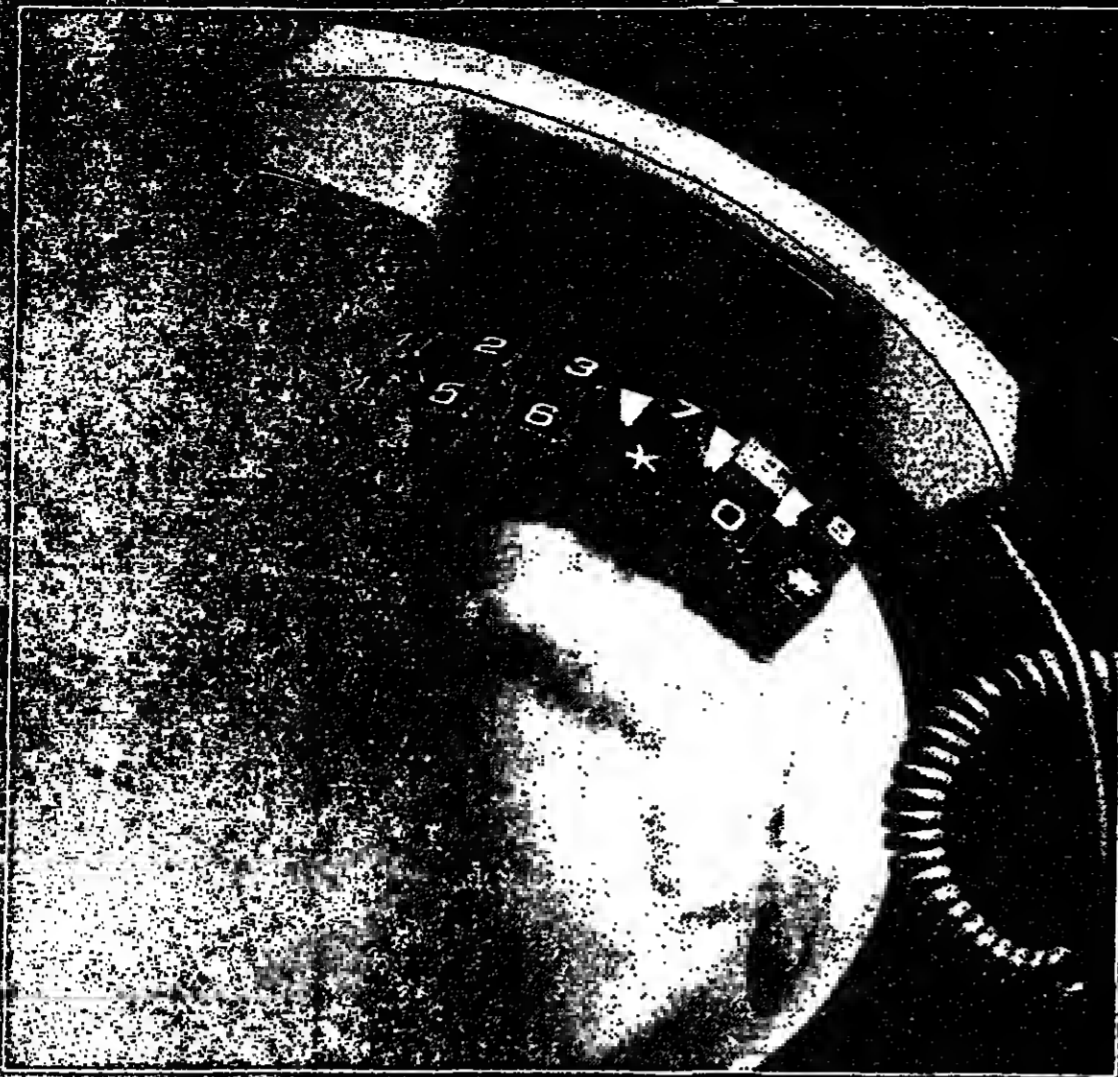
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Bright outlook as the Finns look West for new markets

The last few months have seen a considerable brightening in Finland's economic outlook after a dismal first half of the year. Exporters in particular are happy with the strong demand that has been shown in West European and North American markets.

Finland is in a curious position because the fall in oil prices and the US dollar were a mixed blessing for her. In the long run the fall is naturally a beneficial factor, but in the short run Finland's stabilizing and profitable trade with the Soviet Union has suffered serious setbacks.

The reason is simple. Trade with the Soviet Union is conducted almost exclusively on a bilateral barter basis. This means that imports and exports must balance at the end of each five-year agreement and Finland's imports from Russia consist almost entirely of raw materials, with oil playing a major role.

So the Finns have embarked on an extensive search to find more to import from Russia to maintain their level of exports. But the results have been meagre as Soviet industry is by and large unable to produce goods that would be competitive in an open Western market.

the dozen wealthy nations with a per capita GNP one quarter higher than that of Britain.

Cutbacks in bilateral exports have created difficulties for firms which are not able to adjust to changed circumstances. The worst affected are the textile, clothing, leather and shoe industries.

All this means that the employment situation has worsened considerably, and it is feared that it will rise to somewhere near 7 per cent, which is higher than at any time during the last decade.

The Finnish and Soviet authorities have held discussions in an attempt to avoid a drastic fall in their exchanges. Among other things, different credit methods have been discussed. The newest and, in the long term, potentially most promising ideas are to do with joint ventures.

The Soviet leadership has invited leading Finnish businessmen to talks on the subject. But they are still at an early stage, and progress cannot be quick because, for one thing, Soviet legislation in areas such as the repatriation

of profits to Finland would have to be changed.

The fall in oil prices has, however, led at the same time to faster growth in Western markets and there are already clear signs that Finland's attempt to sell the capacity released from Eastern trade to the West is succeeding.

All this has led the Finance Ministry to revise its predicted growth rate back to 3 per cent this winter.

Finland has been able to maintain a rapid growth of roughly 3 per cent for a number of years, but 1986 threatened to pull her to below the OECD average. It seems likely, however, that the quickly improving situation will enable her to end this year with a 2 per cent growth.

Finland has traditionally been an inflation-prone country and the spectre of rising prices is again visible. Consumer prices rose between December 1985 and October 1986 by 3.3 per cent.

But the last two months of the year should be calmer, so that the annual inflation figure should be roughly 3.5 per cent.

Another worry is that the price competitiveness of Finnish industry is, in terms of relative unit labour costs, below its long-term average, and will this year further deteriorate.

But the long-term economic policies, which have brought about rapid growth and stable conditions, have not after all had a real setback this year.

Even so, during the spring the economic consensus which the employers, the trade unions and the government have observed for more than a decade, showed clear signs of breaking down when the country experienced a number of strikes.

It is likely that the economic consensus, which has been marked by wide-ranging centralized agreements on wages, prices and taxes, will have a slightly easier year ahead even though the March elections may cause some pressures.

On the other hand, this year has brought with it a new phenomenon, speculative pressures against the Finnish mark. Increased use of the Finnish mark as a payment currency, foreigners' Mark-denominated portfolio investments in Finland and the expansion of Finnish companies' economic activities abroad have fostered interest in Finland and the Finnish mark.

In the spring, rumours about an impending devaluation of the Finnish mark prompted some foreign economic agents to hedge their Finnish mark claims. The Bank of Finland had to fight back with its limited weapons.

The call money rate was finally raised to 40 per cent and after a period of tense waiting it helped to calm the market. The country was, however, saddled with a period of very high interest rates, which in turn slowed down real investment.

The whole affair of the defence of the Finnish mark has left the country pondering the difficulties that the convertible currency of a small country faces in today's world.



Logland: wood exports are a major part of Finnish economy

War and peace with the Russians

Finnish history can be said to have begun when various groups speaking a Finno-Ugrian language arrived from across what is now the Gulf of Finland.

Tacitus, the Roman historian, referred to a people called the *Feuni*, who may have been Finns or perhaps Lapps, a different, earlier group.

In about AD 1155, King Eric IX of Sweden decided that the Finns should be incorporated into Christendom and arrived there in force, accompanied by an Englishman, Bishop Henry of Uppsala, whom he left behind in charge of a newly founded bishopric. Henry was murdered, and became Finland's patron saint.

This was the beginning of several centuries of association with Sweden during which Swedish settlers moved in and the country became a grand duchy within the Swedish kingdom. There were, however, constant wars between Sweden and the growing power of Russia, many of them fought over Finnish territory. Eventually, the Swedish-Finnish aristocracy began to think of enlisting Russian help in support of greater independence, and in 1809 this led to a treaty in which Finland passed from Sweden to Russia and Tsar Alexander I became Grand Duke.

Finland had a special status under Tsarist rule and, in response to a growing sense of Finnish nationalism, it was decreed that for the first time the Finnish language should have equal standing with Swedish. Both languages are still official.

After Alexander II was assassinated in 1881 there was increasing pressure from St Petersburg, culminating in the abrogation of the Finnish constitution and a policy of Russification which for a time made Russian the official language.

By the time of the Russian revolution in 1917 Finland had had enough of Russian rule and, with the approval of Lenin, declared its independence. But that was immediately followed by a civil war when Finnish Red Guards, sympathetic to the Bolsheviks, tried to seize power. They were confronted by General, later Marshal, Gustaf Mannerheim who, at the head of the White Guards, and with German support, defeated them.

There was then a curious interlude when the Finnish government invited the Prince of Hesse, brother-in-law of the Kaiser, to become king. But the idea was dropped after the end of the First World War.

In 1939, after the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Stalin demanded territorial concessions from Finland and, when they were refused, invaded. In the subsequent Winter War, Finland won the admiration of the world for its resistance, headed once again by Marshal Mannerheim. But it had to come to terms in 1940.

Finland went to war for a second time in 1941 when, in

alliance with the Germans, it invaded the Soviet Union. It made some impressive gains but eventually had to recognize that it had chosen the wrong side.

In 1944 it negotiated new peace terms which included the stipulation that it should drive all German troops out of Finnish territory, the loss of territory in the Arctic and Karelia, and heavy repara-

tions. It also had to grant a Soviet base on the Porkkala peninsula outside Helsinki.

The Finns met the terms. They also decided that, with the Soviet Union more powerful than ever, they had to establish a *modus vivendi* with it, and that was the basis for their policy of neutrality, and in particular the treaty of friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance signed with Moscow in 1948 and renewed regularly since.

The Finns were later rewarded by Soviet withdrawal from the Porkkala base, and over the years have been able cautiously to build up links with Western Europe.

They are now full members of the European Free Trade Association (Efta), have joined the European Space Agency and are taking part with other Western European countries in the Eureka high technology project.

Peter Stafford

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FOCUS

Opera's new home



Breaking new ground: Sallinen's latest opera, The King Goes Forth to France, due for a British premiere next year

About a month ago, Gustav Björkstrand, the Arts Minister, caused a small explosion near the centre of Helsinki; he was ceremonially blasting the first piece of rock on the site of a new national opera house.

The Finnish National Opera and the opera-going public had been waiting for the occasion eagerly, indeed desperately, for years because it had been deferred again and again since plans were finalized in 1979.

Long and furious arguments had been raging about the site, size, costs and funding of the building. Indeed, at times the entire project had been in danger of extinction through political infighting, as well as hostility from competing interests and certain philistine senior civil servants in the Finnish Treasury.

Yet a new opera house has been needed for a long time. The National Opera works in a charming but hopelessly small Victorian house which seats only about 500; the demand for seats has become overwhelming.

The reason is that opera has long since ceased to be "elitist" in Finland; it has become a popular art form. This is largely due to the Savonlinna Opera Festival, held each summer in the courtyard of a splendid medieval castle in the south-east Finnish lakesland.

Four, or even five, operas are presented over some four weeks to a capacity audience of well over 2,000 each evening.

The works cover a wide range: the current repertoire includes the fascinating and disturbing The King Goes Forth to France, by the Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen - a joint Savonlinna-Covent Garden-BBC commission to be seen at the Royal Opera House next April - Aida, and The Magic Flute in August Everding's evergreen production. The success of the latter has been so great that it will enter its 15th season next summer.

It was during the artistic directorship of the great bass Matti Talvela, between 1972 and 1980, that Savonlinna achieved its inter-

national stature, ably maintained by his successors; and it was the success of this festival that created the abiding interest in opera that is so remarkable.

No less remarkable is the continuous welling up of singing talent. The National Opera maintains an ensemble of a respectable standard; some of its members are of international stature.

For example, Jorma Hynninen, one of the directors of the National Opera, is undoubtedly one of the greatest baritones of our time, equally masterly on the opera stage and on the Lied platform, yet curiously neglected by the major recording companies.

However, the present small house cannot accommodate all the talent that keeps emerging and many Finnish singers have made their careers abroad. Thus Matti Talvela has been followed on the international circuit by other basses, notably the Wagner singer Matti Salminen, and latterly Jaakko Ryhänen. The young soprano Karita Mattila is becoming a well-liked guest at the Royal Opera House. There are many others.

But the vigour of Finnish musical life is not confined to opera. There are two remarkable chamber music festivals held in summer. Oddly enough, both are founded and run by cellists. The festivals are held at the ancient city of Naantali in the south-east in June by Arto Noras, and in Kahmo in the north-eastern backwoods in July and August by Seppo Kinnanen.

Finnish music has long since emerged from the shadow of Sibelius. Composers such as Jonas Kokkonen and Aulis Sallinen, Einonhuani Rantavaara, Einar Englund and Erik Bergman speak with highly individual voices. They are being followed by a younger generation creating original, bold and even radical music. Their names are mostly unknown abroad as yet, but some at least will make their mark in future years.

Erkki Arni

From start to Finnish.



The Finns come to Britain for more than the Lombard RAC Rally.

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Lapps, lakes and an all-year Santa

The Finns are fortunate in their tourists; most people who make the effort to go there are both appreciative and knowledgeable about the country. They go for expanses of lakeland and forest or bare rocky coastlines and islands, for striking modern architecture or painted medieval churches, for festivals of music in picturesque settings.

But the Finns are not above cashing in commercially on some of the clichés that persist about a remote, supposedly snowbound, northern country. This accounts for the success of the "Santa Claus land" tours by which you can pop over for a day trip on Concorde - twice a year, on Midsummer's Day as well as Christmas Eve.

It is vastly expensive, but you are guaranteed no exertion greater than lifting your champagne glass. And there is nothing wrong with a trip that carries you through the holiday period in spectacularly exotic scenery well away from a British Christmas - though the nature-conscious Finns might think twice about the use of snow scooters in their precious wilderness.

Blue Wings, Finnair's in-flight magazine, even had an exclusive interview with Santa noting that the great man is put out by the clichés that have blurred his image.

He would not, he points out, be caught dead at the North Pole ("a dump"), nor



does he fancy climbing down a chimney even if he could fit.

"All those misunderstandings happen because I'm so busy," he said. "I simply don't have time to let people know about all my comings and goings. There are so many children in the world..."

"In fact, my territory proper consists of Korvunturi only, an Arctic fell in Lapland, but the Finns have understood my value as an internationally famous figure - even if I say so myself. That is why they let me call the whole northern

part of Lapland 'Christmasland' and have officially declared that to be its name.

Apart from such exotica, the Finnish Tourist Board identifies a commercial trinity of prime holiday destinations: Lapland, Lakeland (in eastern Finland) and Leningrad, as well as events of cultural and sporting interest. There are about 1,500 "events" annually, including world-standard concerts in magnificent settings.

Visa-free cruises to Leningrad are to be reintroduced

Sledge for the sick: reindeer that become ill are too valuable for the Lapps to abandon. Every aspect of nomadic Lapp life is geared to these remarkable animals

next year, and cheap cruises or train journeys to Soviet destinations are favourites among Finns as well as foreign tourists.

Possibly with the exception of Iceland, which is expecting a tourist boom next summer thanks to publicity generated by the summit meeting earlier this year, Finland is the least visited of the Nordic countries with no more than 500,000 tourists a year, predominantly Swedes and West Germans.

The Japanese have been discovering Finland of late, with winter honeymoons in Lapland something of a growth industry. Couples are said to find the combination of exotic scenery and long hours of darkness irresistibly romantic, and another Finnish speciality, the sauna, is a particular hit.

One cliché, at least, has been demolished - that Finland is a land of 60,000 lakes. A group at the Oulu University counted them last year, by hand, on maps to the scale 1:20,000 and discovered there are exactly 187,888 lakes. The advertisements now round it up to 200,000.

For their own holidays, the Finns tend to gravitate to their cabins on one or another of the lakes, or head south, leaving magnificent coastal reaches largely to the Swedes.

But perhaps the most rewarding aspect of being a tourist, or even a business traveller, is a national passion for design, evident wherever you go.

There are more than enough shops to relieve you of your hard-earned markka in return for some exquisite artefact or other in the classically spare Nordic style, but also in small miracles of ornament reflecting the Byzantine, eastern influence.

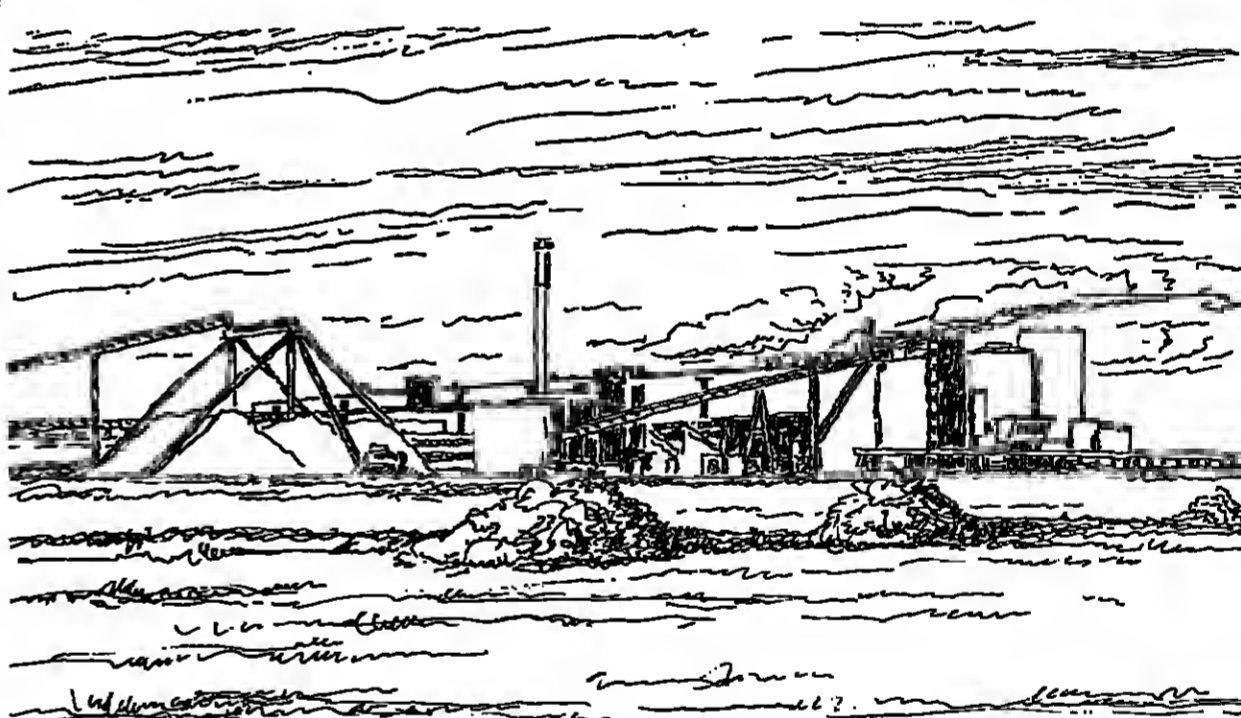
'Arctic design' for very cold weather

It is worth looking out for examples of "Arctic design", the adaptation of industrial products to extremely cold weather. To many Finns, even an ice-breaker plying the Baltic is a thing of beauty and their cruise ships are designed and run to a standard which make some workaday Nordic passenger services suffer humiliation.

Most striking to the British visitor, and other more southern races, is the perpetual darkness of winter - inside as well as out. The Finns, like all the Nordic people, are obsessed with light. They spend half the year exercising all their internationally famous design skills in the struggle to soften an environment from which illumination has fled, and the other half glorying in its abundance.

But the winter campaign is waged with subtlety. The weapons, which include lamps of all descriptions, superbly conceived and wrought, and the ubiquitous candle in near-infinite variety, are deployed

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

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Reject BTR bid, says Pilkington

Pilkington Brothers, the world's biggest glassmaker, has strongly advised shareholders to reject the £1.2 billion takeover bid from industrial conglomerate BTR. Mr Antony Pilkington, the chairman, said in the formal defence document: "In 20 years, Pilkington has moved from fourth position in the world to undisputed leader. I would regard it as grossly inadequate if the very substantial benefits which are resulting from our successful strategy were to flow to BTR shareholders rather than to the shareholders of Pilkington."

Thorn ahead

Thorn EMI, the electricals, entertainment and microchip group, made pretax profits of £41.5 million in the half year to September 30 against £11.4 million in the corresponding period on turnover 3 per cent lower at £1.49 billion. The dividend is unchanged at 5p. Times, page 29



Brewers' chief

Mr Anthony Fuller, above, chairman and managing director of Fuller, Smith & Turner, the family-run London brewer, has been elected chairman of the Brewers' Society. The new vice-chairman is Mr Alick Rankin, group chief executive of Scottish & Newcastle.

McCarthy up

Shares in McCarthy & Stone, market leader in sheltered housing, soared by 23 per cent after results that were better than expected. Pretax profits for the year to August 31 rose from £9.6 million to £16.1 million on turnover 77 per cent higher at £67.2 million. A final dividend of 2.51p was declared, making a total - adjusted for the rights issue in May - of 3.31p. Times, page 29

Exxon deal

Exxon Corp is to receive \$2.46 million (£172.3) or 34 cents a share from the sale of the Exxon office building to Mitsui Fudosan (NY).

Table with 2 columns: Market Summary, Stock Markets. Lists various indices and their values.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 2 columns: Stock Markets, Interest Rates. Lists stock prices and interest rates.

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Interest Rates, Currencies. Lists interest rates and currency values.

CURRENCIES

Table with 2 columns: Currencies. Lists currency values.

Profits several millions better than most expectations

Gloom clears at Guinness

Guinness, the brewing and spirits group, yesterday delivered the first substantial trading report since its £2.7 billion takeover in the Spring. The City judged it as largely satisfactory and a welcome relief from the gloom surrounding Guinness since the Department of Trade and Industry began an investigation, 10 days ago, into share dealings during the bid. The news was complex due to the initial contribution from Distillers and an impending change of year end. But at £241 million, profits before tax for the year to September 30, were £5 to £10 million better than most expectations. The figure represented a rise of 180 per cent. For shareholders, the dividend message was clear. A second interim payment of 5.86p is being made because of the change of year end and that amounts to a rise of 13 per cent. News from the original Guinness companies was well up to expectations. During the acrimonious battle for control of Distillers, Mr Ernest Saunders, the chief executive of Guinness - now chairman - forecast profits of £130 million, a figure exceeded with £2 million to spare. Analysts were impressed by the performance in the light of the fourfold devaluation of the currency in Nigeria, an important overseas market for Guinness. Excluding acquisitions made this year and last, the "old" Guinness companies achieved a 16 per cent improvement in profits. Brewing volume grew by 7 per cent, which industry sources considered to be a favourable result for a group whose major product was considered ex-growth a few years ago. The group's retailing interests also performed strongly making an important contribution to the £27 million profits - more than double - from what Guinness describes as its "development sector." The Bells whisky operations, bought before Guinness moved in on Distillers, has at last halted the decline of its market share. News from Distillers itself was mixed, with the key US market showing a severe downturn over the past six months. This followed an important period of stocking up ahead of the increase in Federal Excise Tax last year and a stocking up of Distillers' distribution chain at the tail-end of the takeover battle. There is some evidence that the decline is being halted but trading is being affected by a discount war and generally tougher competition. Over the past months, Distillers brands appear to have improved their market share. Yet total Distillers profits were £134 million in the five months and a half of consolidation against £124 million for the previous six months. The takeover of Distillers boosted group debt by nearly £700 million but disposals have already raised £200 million.



Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders: a toast to the future

Nationwide and Anglia in record merger

The Nationwide and Anglia allows societies to engage in a much wider range of activities. Both societies will continue to develop their diversification plans separately with the intention that the full range of services will be offered by the merged society. The branch structure of the two societies will remain largely intact. The Nationwide has 538 branches and the Anglia 400. The Nationwide is strongest in the south of England while the Anglia has a major presence in East Anglia and the East Midlands. Neither society has a big representation in the north of England. If the merger goes ahead a maximum of 50 of the combined total of 928 branch offices will be closed to the public. Many of the closed offices will be used for administration. Both societies have promised that there will be no compulsory redundancies. There should be some good news for the 304,000 Anglia borrowers. At 12.375 per cent the Anglia's mortgage rate for both repayment and endowment mortgages is one-eighth of one per centage point higher than that of the Nationwide. The Nationwide and Anglia will be the first of a series of mergers between building societies. The merger resolution is subject to the approval of members of both societies. If approved, the merger will come into effect on September 1, 1987. The Nationwide and Anglia have been at the forefront of diversification plans ahead of implementation of the Building Societies Act on January 1. The new legislation

Statement on Collier charges

Mr John Holmes, a director of Morgan Grenfell Securities, made a formal statement yesterday in connection with allegations that Mr Geoffrey Collier used his telephone to make calls leading to alleged insider dealing offences. Mr Michael Cassell, an employee in the United States of Vickers de Costa, the broker, is named in the charges against Mr Collier as the recipient of inside information from Mr Collier in a case to be heard at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court. Mr Holmes, in his statement, agreed in consultation with the solicitors, Slaughter & May, said: "I have made a full statement to the relevant authorities and as I am a potential witness in the Collier case it would be inappropriate for me to make any further comment."

Court thwarts Hanson's plan

Hanson Trust's controversial plan to take an estimated £80 million surplus in the Courage pension funds was thwarted by the High Court yesterday. The decision means the three Courage pension funds will remain intact under the control of Elders XL, the Australian lager company which bought Courage from Hanson for £1.4 billion. Moreover, Elders will now have to pay an extra £50 million representing the value of the surplus after tax - to Hanson. Mr Justice Millett's ruling makes it harder for companies to close off their pension funds as a defensive tactic against a potential predator. The High Court proceedings were taken by the committee of management of the three Courage pension funds. They were seeking a declaration on whether they could sign documents which would lead to Hanson retaining the surplus and the liability to pay the existing and deferred pensioners. The management committee asked also if it could re-open the three pension funds to new members. The Imperial Group had closed the funds as a defensive tactic against Hanson Trust. The judge said the management committee could not sign the documents. The effect of this is that the funds stay with Courage. He also ruled that the management committee could re-open the funds to new members. This means that Imperial's plans to block the funds to Hanson employees would not automatically have worked.

Trafalgar buys Broseley for £74m

Trafalgar House, the property, construction and shipbuilding company, is to buy Broseley Estates and Frederick Powell & Sons, the housebuilders, from Guardian Royal Exchange for £74 million. Trafalgar House is to pay for the acquisitions, which it says will boost its housebuilding capacity by 50 per cent to 6,000 homes a year, through a placing of 30.28 million shares at 245p a share. Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, has agreed to buy all Trafalgar House shares at this price. The deal comes hard on the heels of Trafalgar's year-end results. These showed pretax profits of £145.8 million with an extraordinary write-off of £56.8 million on the value of its oil and gas investments. Trafalgar says the purchase will not result in a dilution of earnings. Broseley's profits are estimated at £9 million for 1986. This is before an interest charge of £4 million on inter-company debt which will be capitalized before the acquisition, offsetting the 7 per cent increase in Trafalgar's share capital. The purchase also brings Trafalgar handy tax losses and a land bank of 7,000 homes. Most of these are situated in the south of England. Trafalgar's housebuilding subsidiary, Ideal Homes, into which Broseley will be integrated, was one of the company's most profitable activities. Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance broker, says it is selling its housebuilding operation because it does not fit into its long-term strategy. The money raised from the sale will be used to develop GRE's normal insurance and investment activities.

Relief at Mercury as Steinberg sells

Mr Saul Steinberg, the New York businessman, yesterday sold his controversial holding in Mercury International, the merchant banking and securities conglomerate, to the pension fund of the Canadian National Railways. The deal is worth £100 million and gives Mr Steinberg a profit of £30 million. There was "pleasurable relief" at Mercury that the troublesome shareholding had at last changed hands but experts were astonished at the high price paid by CNR. The 15 per cent stake changed hands for 455p a share, 50p above market price. Immediately after the announcement of the sale, Mercury's shares tumbled 30p to 374p as expectations of a bid from Mr Steinberg evaporated. One stockbroker said: "We estimate Mercury's full diluted earnings at the year end will be 30p a share, which means the shares have been bought on a multiple of 15 times." Most financial conglomerates trade on multiples of up to 8.5 times earnings. Mr David Scholey, the chairman of Mercury, said that the purchase had taken him by surprise. "CNR is a sound long-term investor and we will be meeting them in the next few days." He added: "CNR will have noted the exchanges between Mr Steinberg and myself and will know the kind of relationship we wish to maintain with our shareholders." The deal was put together by Mr Barry McFadzean, who used to work for S G Warburg - the merchant banking arm of Mercury - and now runs his own company, Corporate Advisory Service. Mr McFadzean approached CNR and suggested that Mr Steinberg might be willing to sell his stake. There was considerable relief also at Hoare Govett, Mr Steinberg's main London stockbroker. Mr Richard Westmacott, a joint senior partner, had first interested Mr Steinberg in Mercury but was embarrassed by the size of the stake his client built up. Mr Steinberg's Reliance Insurance first started buying Mercury shares last year, despite strong opposition from Mercury's board. In October he increased his stake to 15 per cent, tearing up an agreement with the company not to go above 10 per cent.

Beecham's sell-offs to net £300m

Beecham, the pharmaceuticals and household products group, is selling its British, French and German home improvement products businesses to Henkel of West Germany for £42 million in cash. The sale includes Unibond-Copydex in Britain, but not UHU adhesives. Beecham hopes to sell the US home improvement business by the end of this financial year for about £120 million. The management buyout option for the home improvement businesses did not materialize because Henkel offered more money, a Beecham spokesman said. The sale of Germaine Montell, Beecham's US cosmetics subsidiary, should be finalized by the end of the month. The disposals will net Beecham more than £300 million. The company is looking for a big acquisition in its core areas of pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medicines. BAT Industries' German subsidiary, BATIG, also announced yesterday that agreement had been reached to sell its home improvement division to Swedish Match for about £100 million.

Hornby steams for USM

Hornby Group, best known for Hornby model railways and Scalextric slot car racing, is coming to the unlisted securities market with a price tag of £8 million. The USM debut is taking place amid Hornby's busiest period and the group, whose chairman is Mr Jack Strowger, is forecasting pretax profits for the year to December 31 of at least £1 million before interest on the buy-out finance. The first Hornby model train was developed in 1920 by Meccano, the company founded by Frank Hornby to make construction toys. In 1964, Meccano was bought by its main competitor, Rovex, which also owned Scalextric and Tri-ang. Rovex merged Hornby trains with its own Tri-ang Railways to create the Tri-ang Hornby range of model trains. In 1982, the first year after the buyout, Hornby made a pretax loss of £1.2 million before interest on the buy-out finance. Since then, cost-cutting, and the introduction of new products such as Thomas the Tank Engine have enabled profits to grow steadily. The stockbrokers Alexander Leung and Crutchbank are placing 4.8 million shares, equivalent to 61 per cent of the group's enlarged share capital at 190p a share. At the placing price, the shares are on a multiple of 11.4 times forecast earnings, and offer a gross yield of 4.5 per cent. Dealings are expected to start next Thursday.



Toying with success: Strowger and Thomas the Tank Engine

City insiders rate BZW as the firm to succeed

Life after Big Bang

Barclays de Zoete Weid, the securities house offshoot of Barclays Bank, is rated as the financial conglomerate most likely to succeed in the post-Big Bang world, according to a survey of 100 City insiders published yesterday. BZW chalked up 50 per cent more marks than its closest rival, Mercury International. Both companies were well ahead of Merrill Lynch and Normura, which took third and fourth place in the list of companies expected to be most successful. Among the British companies, Kleinwort Benson was sixth and National Westminster eighth. Companies which had chosen either a low-key approach to Big Bang or had aimed to be "niche" players, scored lowest. The report, undertaken three weeks after Big Bang, surveyed senior bankers, stockbrokers and fund managers. It was conducted by Business Opinion, a subsidiary of Charles Barker City, the public relations company. Most respondents felt more competition from foreign companies would help to make London a more international financial centre. Merrill Lynch was seen as the most active among foreign competitors, followed by Citicorp, Goldman Sachs and Salomon Brothers. Only 12 per cent of respondents thought City conglomerates had adequate capital backing. Most thought the quality of the people working for financial conglomerates was more important than the size of capital. The survey revealed a surprising ignorance about the new regulatory structure. Most people thought the absence of direct government involvement in City regulation was desirable. Barclay Brothers' bid for IC Gas, the calor Gas group, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission. The twins, who made the bid through Gulf Resources, said it would now lapse. Mr Paul Channon, the Industry Secretary, referred the bid on the recommendation of the Office of Fair Trading. He considered the financing proposals and their possible implications for calor Gas users raised issues needing investigation. IC Gas welcomed the referral, saying the offer raised "serious public interest questions".

Advertisement for Charles Church, featuring a large house and the text: 4,000 Quality Homes of Character IN BERKSHIRE · BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HAMPSHIRE · OXFORDSHIRE SURREY AND SUSSEX TELEPHONE (0276) 681661

ECONOMIC VIEW

Time to change treatment of state sell-off proceeds

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

It is now conventional wisdom among financial and political wisecracks that the Government is bent on electoral reflation. Spending is to be allowed to run out of control, taxes will be cut and borrowing will be increased to keep money flowing into voters' pockets.

The markets are prepared to tolerate this because they think it will produce a Conservative victory which, over time, will lead to more prudent fiscal policies than any likely alternative government. Yet the evidence for this consoling political strategy is remarkably thin.

An increase in the planned total of public spending was staring ministers in the face right from the start of this year's survey. No doubt there were some savings which in other years might have been made that were judged too difficult politically with an election on the horizon, but by far the biggest element in the increase was the rise in provision for local authority spending. Over that the Government has no direct control at all. The truth seems to be rather that when ministers saw the tide coming in, they chose to take credit for a higher level of water at the lock gates.

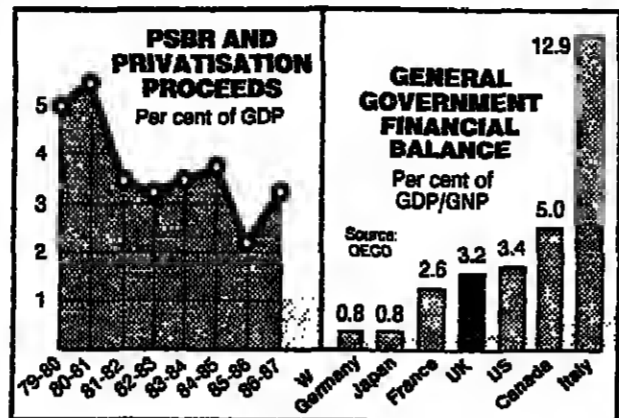
As for the Government borrowing its way to an election victory, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has chosen - uniquely in recent times and

against the advice of some of his officials - to tie his hands. Next year's Budget judgement, he has promised, will not allow the public sector borrowing requirement to exceed 1 1/2 per cent of GDP - as outlined in the existing medium-term financial strategy. In other words, there will be no reflation.

Why then do the markets insist on believing that there will be? Part of the answer is simply scepticism. But the Government has made matters more difficult for itself by a lack of clarity in its budgetary policy.

Another piece of conventional wisdom is that the Government has been financing current spending by "selling off the family silver". In fact if we count privatization proceeds as simply another way of financing the Government's deficit and add them to the PSBR, then we find that borrowing and privatization proceeds together are still at much the same level as they were in 1982-83 (see chart). The Government has not been pawning the heirlooms to go on a spree. Nor has it, on this measure, been progressively tightening fiscal policy.

There are, of course, other factors to take into account in determining whether fiscal policy is tight or loose, but they do not suggest fiscal laxity. During the build-up of revenues from the North Sea it was appropriate to reduce the level of borrowing. This was what happened in the



period from the mid-1970s, when the PSBR peaked at 9 1/2 per cent of GDP, to the early 1980s when it settled down at about 3 1/2 per cent. The sharp fall in oil revenues this year - a drop of more than half in a single year - has not been fully reflected in a rise in borrowing, which implies some tightening of fiscal policy.

Bringing every relevant factor together in a single measure of the fiscal stance is probably asking too much. But surely some improvement is possible on present practices. Privatization proceeds, in particular, have served to confuse the fiscal picture. Given that several other countries are about to face similar problems as privatization catches on around the world, it is instructive to look at how they plan to account for the proceeds of asset sales.

A short survey about to be published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris suggests that Britain's treatment of privatization proceeds

is looking increasingly idiosyncratic. No other country regards the proceeds as negative expenditure. A few are prepared to regard them, in whole or part, as revenue. But most are being applied to the reduction of debt which must be the proper economic policy.

In Japan, privatization proceeds have only just begun to arise with the sale of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corporation, but it is likely that they will be kept off-budget and used to reduce debt. (The underlying level of Japanese debt is higher than shown in the chart because of the surplus building up in the social fund to finance pensions in the 1990s and beyond.) The French plan to apply roughly half the proceeds of St Gobain and other sales to the reduction of debt. The other half will be used to finance a public fund for the support of state sector lame ducks like Renault. In other words, they will be treated as revenue hypothecated to a particular expenditure programme.

Canada is using privatization proceeds to reduce the debt of the companies it privatizes. If any is left over it is unlikely so far - it will be treated as revenue and allowed to reduce the borrowing requirement. The US has relatively few state industries to privatize but its practice perhaps comes closest to Britain's. In order to meet the Gramm-Rudman targets for the budget deficit, loans made by the state are being sold to the private sector.

Taken as a whole, the overseas evidence reinforces the case for our own Government to make a change in its treatment of privatization proceeds. The case is not that the Government has used the proceeds of state sales to finance current spending. Fiscal policy has, in fact, remained fairly stable over the past five years, tightening in the current year with the fall in oil revenues. The case is that treating privatization proceeds as negative spending has been unnecessarily confusing and that confusion breeds suspicion.

The Government is already disposed increasingly to chart the course of public spending excluding privatization proceeds. Last January's Public Expenditure White Paper contained information on both bases, and figures excluding state selloffs were used by ministers extensively in the presentation of the Chancellor's autumn statement. This being so, there seems little point in maintaining the convention that asset sales reduce public spending.

That still leaves the question of whether the proceeds should be treated as revenue or confined to the capital account in line with the conventions for national accounts. Fiscal clarity demands that they should be treated as capital items. If that basis is adopted, the best existing measure of the fiscal stance is the public sector financial deficit, which is what the Treasury Select Committee favours. But, being a national accounts concept, the PSFD is measured on an accruals basis, in other words, instead of measuring the actual cash flows in the Government's accounts, it records spending and revenue due. It could be better to stick to the cash basis with which markets are familiar and publish an additional series of PSBR plus privatization proceeds. The Budget would be a good time to start.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Ernest Saunders and the wrath of God

The expectation, which may be no more than hope expressed as expectation, is that the Department of Trade and Industry's inspectors inquiring into Guinness will complete their work shortly. For Guinness plc their findings and the reaction of the department cannot come too soon. Already the decision to have an inquiry has done severe damage to the Guinness share price, raised questions about the company in other countries where it does business, and added venom to the campaign which began shortly after Guinness acquired DCL (Distillers) to discredit the chairman and chief executive of Guinness, Ernest Saunders.

No one outside the Department of Trade knows for certain what Guinness, or people within Guinness, are alleged to have done that might have been illegal. The presumption is that the inquiry relates to dealings in Guinness and Distillers shares during the contested bid for DCL, and that the DTI was moved to act on the basis of information originally supplied to the American Securities and Exchange Commission by the fallen arbitrageur Ivan Boesky, who was undoubtedly active during the Distillers bid, as he was during Guinness's earlier bid for Arthur Bell.

The feeling, right or wrong, is that the DTI would not have descended on Guinness like the wrath of God unless it was sure of its ground. It is a feeling lucidly expressed in the price of Guinness shares. In the light of Guinness's trading performance during the period covered by the figures released yesterday - satisfactory and promising for the future - the shares are cheap. The fact that they remain where they are, at a 25 per cent discount to their sector of the market, is due entirely to the DTI inquiry and the City's perceptions of its nature and outcome.

At the centre of the Guinness drama stands Ernest Saunders, a tall, enigmatic and increasingly lonely figure, whose business life since taking over the running of Guinness has so far gone through three distinctive phases. In the first he revitalized, restored and reinvigorated a moribund company. In the second, through the acquisition of Bell's and later DCL, whose inept board turned to Guinness to save them from a fate they feared more than any other, he appeared as the man most likely to revive the ailing Scotch whisky industry. In the third he has become the victim of that peculiarly spiteful envy which the British reserve for those who succeed in business; and at the same time he is under continuous attack for not carrying through undertakings made during the Distillers bid.

In particular the Scottish lobby is baying for Saunders' blood. Whether they succeed in getting it will turn on the DTI's findings but rarely can any man, least of all the head of a leading company, have been so vilified as Ernest Saunders is in an early day motion put down in the Commons on November 20. The political campaign against him is led by Alex Fletcher, a former junior minister at the DTI and now a consultant to Jimmy Gulliver, and Nicholas Fairbairn whose relationship, though less defined, is as close with Raymond Miguel whose Arthur Bell fieldom was taken away by Guinness. If the DTI had any hesitation about moving into Guinness, the Scottish anti-Saunders brigade stiffened Michael Howard's resolve. Guinness of course is under a severe political handicap: the Secretary of State, Mr Paul Channon, is a member of the Guinness family, and whenever the name Guinness plc is heard, puts the maximum distance between himself and the subject.

Whatever the outcome of the Guinness investigation, matters are unlikely to rest there. Guinness clearly feels that the sins of others - in the City and those involved in the bitter fighting for DCL - may be being visited on one company, contrary to the British notion of fair play. If the inspectors find what they are looking for, the temptation to cast Saunders in the role of a scapegoat will be strong. It is not a part he would willingly accept. Thus the drama will continue and the problems of City and industry implied in the Guinness affair will continue to be examined, probably against the background of acrimony between them and mounting political embarrassment for the Government.

Meanwhile, arguments over management philosophy can rage *ad nauseam* but for those who adhere to the principle that the ends justify the means, yesterday's Guinness results make interesting reading. Underlying profits pre-Distillers were not out of line with the £130 million forecast during the bid. Cost savings at Distillers are already coming through. Once Distillers gains momentum profits will rise for at least two years on the back of cost savings alone.

The business school approach adopted yesterday of presenting a plethora of figures which supposedly spoke for themselves was not wholly convincing. Indeed, given the public perception of Guinness at the moment, a more sympathetic approach would have gone down better.

Nevertheless, the results proved even if the group had to proceed from henceforth on auto pilot, it would not loose its way for several years.

STOCK MARKET

Talk of interest rate cut boosts trading in gilts

By Carol Leonard

Growing hopes of a 1/2 per cent cut in interest rates when European finance ministers meet Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, and Mr Sumita, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, tomorrow, were being dismissed as "over optimistic" in the City. Instead, Mr Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Phillips & Drew, the broker, thinks a base rate rise of 1/2 per cent might be more likely.

"The prospect of a cut in interest rates in the UK is not really on the agenda for Friday," he says. "It could be that rates here go up or that the authorities in Britain are rescued by a round of international rate cuts."

Mr Lewis says tomorrow's meeting will probably involve a review of progress during the past year, ahead of the next International Monetary Fund meeting in April, and touch on

A party of 40 City retail analysts will be in Solihull today visiting Foster Brothers, the menswear, childrenswear and Millers chain, which leapt into the arms of Sears rather than be taken over by Ward White. Sears, down 1p to 123p, will be unveiling development plans.

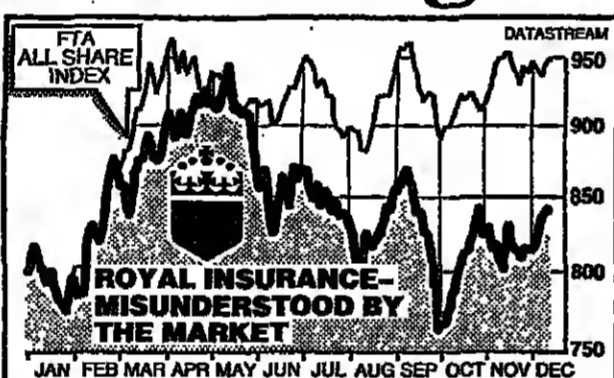
the problem of finding a managing director to succeed M Jacques de la Rosiere, who retires at the end of the month.

Talk of an interest rate cut caused a flurry of activity in the gilt-edged market early on, with rates moving ahead by more than 1/2 within the first hour. The Government made the most of the opportunity by selling off the final part of its £100 million tranche of 2007 stock, first issued 10 days ago.

The market then drifted steadily back and ended the day virtually unchanged from overnight levels.

Sterling held up well, closing more than half a cent up on the dollar at \$1.4252.

Equities meanwhile had an unexciting session, although they nevertheless remained firm. The FT-SE 100 share index opened down 2.8 points and closed at about the same



level, down 1.3 at 1,634.6. The FT 30 share index closed 1.1 lower at 1,285.5.

After British Gas, which slipped 1/2p to 61 1/2p amid a volume of 198 million shares, Grand Metropolitan, the hotels and brewing group was one of the most heavily traded stocks, after our story yesterday that a consortium bid was in the pipeline.

More than 9 million shares changed hands in the market, pushing the price 1 1/2p higher to 459p. There were also reports that a block of 20 million shares changed hands outside the stock market.

Most other leaders drifted a few pennies easier, with the exception of Thorn EMI which improved 5p to 484p after unveiling its interim results yesterday and a rise in profits from £11.4 million to £41.5 million.

ICI slipped 5p to 111 1/2p, Cadbury Schweppes 1.5p to 183.5p, Cable & Wireless 2p to 322p and BTR 2p to 274p.

Royal Insurance, the composite insurance company, firmed 4p to 858p, after being rated as a "boy" by Wood Mackenzie, the broker. Mr Peter Rice, Wood Mackenzie's insurance expert, thinks the stock is extremely cheap.

He says: "Their share performance has been dismal since May while in sharp contrast their last few sets of results have been sensationally good."

At the nine-month stage they reported profits of £193 million, when we were forecasting £163 million, and their third-quarter figures, out last month, showed profits of £106 million, 40 per cent

ahead of our forecast of £76 million.

For the present year, which ends at the end of this month, Mr Rice is forecasting £280 million profits and £430 million for 1987.

He also says the yield for the entire insurance sector for the next three years at least will be ahead of the market average. For Royal Insurance he estimates that it will be between 15 per cent and 20 per cent, compared with a market average of about 10 per cent.

He says: "For the past 10 years composites have been very much out of favour because investors are worried about a downturn in premiums. Lots of institutions have been trying to reduce their weightings in the sector and this has depressed the share prices."

"As a result Royal is now selling on a multiple of five times peak earnings, which is too low. It should be on a multiple of about seven."

Earnings per share for Royal Insurance are expected to increase from 96.10p in 1986 to 126.2p in 1987.

Elsewhere in the insurance sector, General Accident slipped 6p to 828p, Guardian Royal 1p to 783p, Britannic 6p to 871p, Sun Life 4p to 920p and the Prudential Corporation 3p to 826p.

Oils were nervous ahead of today's Opec meeting in Geneva. Shell, which had 10 million shares traded in the market, dipped 6p to 944p, BP 8p to 675p, British 2p to 149p and Trianon 2p to 56p.

I C Gas fell 1 1/2p to 528p because of the referral of the bid from Gulf Resources to

the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Banks had another good day after the re-rating of the whole sector. Standard Chartered climbed 10p to 804p, National Westminster 5p to 307p and Lloyds 5p to 447p.

Mercury International, the merchant banking group which owns Rowe & Pitman, the Queen's stockbroker, gave up 3 1/2p to 371p on the news that corporate raider, Mr Saul Steinberg, had sold his 15 per cent stake.

The share price fell on disappointment that the stake had gone to friendly hands - in the unlikely shape of the Canadian National Railway.

Good results, followed by an institutional presentation at the offices of the company's brokers, de Zoete and Bevan, lifted McCarthy & Stone, the sheltered housing group 5p to 299p.

Final figures from Guinness, the beleaguered

Expect Stone International, the systems design group, to announce three contracts today worth £3.6 million. The largest is for £2.9 million of air conditioning for Spanish Railways. The others are with British Rail and Cuban Railways. Its shares could be in for a boost.

beer and spirits group, boosted its shares 3p to 290p, while Charter Consolidated gave up 1 1/2p to 293p, despite announcing a 61 per cent improvement in profitability.

Crystalite, which manufactures electrical components, was unchanged at 220p, after results in line with the forecast it made at the time of an acquisition last month, and Stakis, the hotel chain, eased 3p to 72p.

Confirmation that Tate & Lyle has increased its holding in S & W Beristord, the commodities and sugar group, failed to impress the market.

Tate & Lyle put out an official announcement that it has increased its holding from 9 per cent to 14.2 per cent. But neither the Tate & Lyle nor the S & W Beristord share prices moved. Tate was unchanged at 578p and Beristord at 286p.

The charges would be more serious. The investigation is aimed at the grey area between what is legal and what is illegal in the relationships between arbitrageurs, investment bankers and their wealthy clients, officials said.

As part of the information subpoenaed in connection with the scandal involving Mr Ivan Boesky, SEC officials are trying to determine whether investors who acquired stakes below the 5 per cent level were working in concert with larger investors who acquired bigger holdings in takeover targets, the industry sources said.

American share investigation

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US Government investigation of illegal insider trading has taken an important new turn, focusing on possible "pools of money" or collaboration among wealthy investors to drive up share prices.

Industry sources confirmed yesterday that the Securities and Exchange Commission has reason to believe there may have been serious violations of an SEC statute requiring large investors to disclose within 10 days any investment of more than 5 per cent in a company's shares.

They said that government investigators, acting on reports of secret collaborations among professional traders, were compiling information that could lead to new complaints similar to those filed in March against Canada's wealthy Belzberg family.

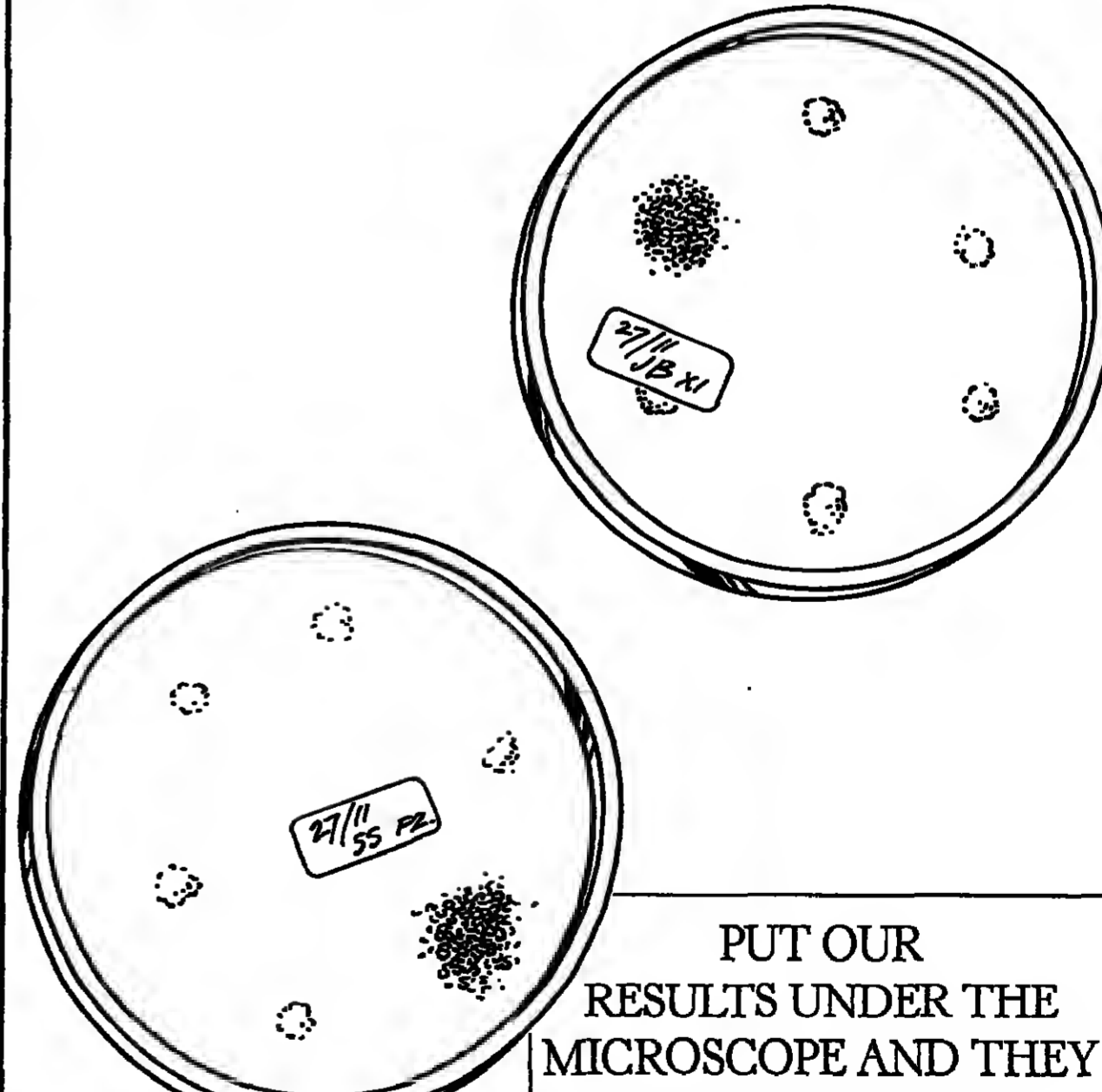
SEC officials accused the Belzbergs of failing to disclose a large investment in the shares of Ashland Oil Company, saying the extent of the holdings were concealed because some of the family's shares were held by a Wall Street firm.

The Belzbergs denied the accusations.

Industry officials said yesterday that the new investigation appears to be focused on reports that a small group of wealthy investors make purchases which concentrate a large number of a company's shares in the hands of a few individuals.

When the information is disclosed, the share prices rise dramatically, creating huge profits when the company is either sold or forced to buy back its own shares.

This practice, on the surface, violates disclosure statutes, not insider trading laws but if a collaboration is found,



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very, very, very
flattered.



مركز الامارات

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for Market rates, Market rates, and Forward rates for various currencies.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table listing exchange rates for various international currencies like Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing spot rates for major currencies including the Japanese Yen, West German Mark, and Swiss Franc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of futures prices for three-month sterling, US Treasury bonds, and short gilts.

US merger called off by Wickes

Santa Monica, California (Reuters) - Wickes Inc has called off its agreement to acquire Lear Steiger Inc and is ending its tender offer for Lear shares.

Tokyo curb on SE places for foreigners

Foreign securities firms are not likely to be able to gain additional seats on the Tokyo Stock Exchange next year, despite efforts by British and American firms to do so.

Brierley in \$75m issue of Eurobonds

Brierley Investments Overseas is issuing \$75 million of 7 1/4 per cent Eurobonds due on January 6, 1992, priced at 100 1/4 and convertible during the first three years of its life into a non-callable, five-year floating rate note.

Tokyo curb on SE places for foreigners

But, in response to a question at a seminar on Japanese investment trends, Mr Jelfcoat added: "We are hoping and expecting an offer to apply within the next 12 to 18 months."

Half Yearly Results - Highlights

- Profit before tax: £17.9 million - up 61%
Profit attributable: £12.8 million - up 67%
Earnings per share: 12.2p - up from 7.3p
Interim dividend: 4.0p - up from 3.75p

Charter's half yearly report 30 September 1986 will be posted to registered shareholders on or about 12 December 1986 and copies will be available from that date on application to the Company's registered office.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table of traditional options with columns for First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, and For Settlement.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of equities and rights issues, including Ashland, Aves Europe, and various rights issues.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market rates for various currencies and gold prices.

BULLION

Table of bullion prices for gold and silver.

EGGD

Table of EGGD (Export Goods Growth Data) for various countries.

Bell Group considers acquisition

Reuter (Perth) - Bell Group must make a large acquisition to restore the balance of equity-to-operating base, the chairman Mr Robert Holmes & Court said.

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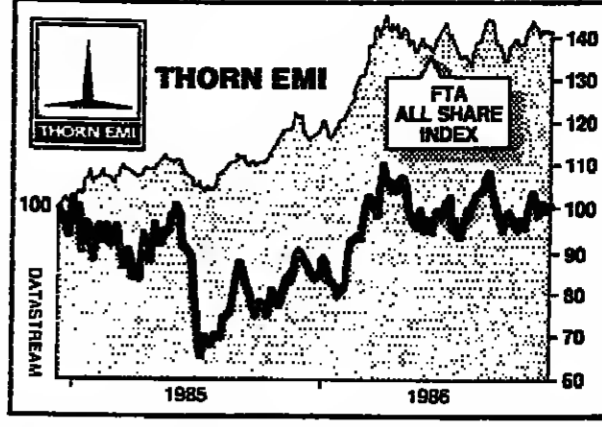
BTR is no stranger to high fliers. In fact we've helped keep the world's best known high flier, Concorde, in the air throughout its distinguished 10 year service.



TEMPUS

Patchy progress at Thorn EMI

Thorn EMI's interim results demonstrated that the management is getting to grips with some of the company's thornier problems, but it is still making slow progress on other fronts.



On the plus side Rumbelows' move into selling television sets is driving up margins and improving profits. The rental side also showed substantial growth.

The technology division swung into a profit of £5 million from a loss of £2.5 million, despite the £4 million costs of Thorn Ericsson, the joint venture with LM Ericsson.

Music stayed in loss to the tune of £3.7 million despite a £5 million improvement in Thames Television's contribution. North American losses stubbornly refused to come down.

McCarthy & Stone The former glamour stock, McCarthy & Stone is launching a comeback. Its 1985/86 results were well ahead of expectations.

Charter Consolidated Tempus sailed against the wind six months ago when it advised against Charter Consolidated after its final results.

Charter Consolidated The shares, down 12p at 294p, are starting to have an expensive look, although sharp losses will no doubt be limited by a prospective yield of more than 6 per cent.

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APPOINTMENTS

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purves becomes chairman. Mr Frank Frame becomes deputy chairman. Mr John Gray joins the board as executive director of finance and is made chairman of Wardley Holdings.

John Pearce Holdings: Mr Brian Gordon becomes director of development.

Express Foods Group: Mr Michael Hodgkinson is appointed managing director. Mr Christopher Chamberlain commercial director. Mr James Murphy director of trade relations and Mr Richard Etches personnel and administration director.

Lookers: Mr Ray Horrocks is made a non-executive director.

Elders Securities UK: Mrs Vi John will become associate director of operations from January 1.

Seton Healthcare: Mr Diemo George becomes divisional director of hospital products. Mr Michael Rabbitt divisional director of consumer products. Mr Konrad Ostmeier regional director, Europe and Mr Rodney Houghton-Bailey, regional director, Middle East.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Prudential in challenge to the merchant banks

By Judith Huntley

Prudential Portfolio Managers, part of the Prudential Corporation, is restructuring its property investment operation with the aim of selling its property fund management services to clients outside the Prudential group.

This means that it will rival the merchant banks in the services it will offer.

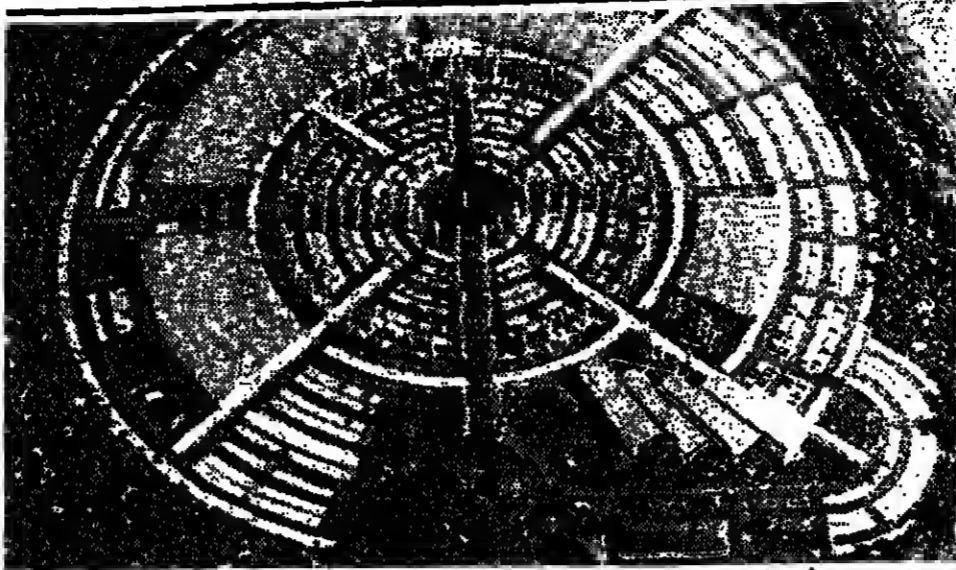
The Prudential is Britain's biggest investor in commercial property with a portfolio worth £2.7 billion. The estate division of PPM, the Prudential's investment management arm, is being reorganized into three sectors - fund management, investment and property management.

Mr Michael Mallinson, the insurance company's property director and chief surveyor, will continue to head the operation. The objective of the new structure is to create a strong link between managing funds and the properties which make up the portfolios in those funds. It is these services which the Prudential hopes to sell outside.

Mr Mallinson commented: "As with other areas of the financial sector, the property world is undergoing a period of unprecedented change. By effectively managing these changes, Prudential Portfolio Managers believes it will be able to maximize on the investment opportunities which commercial property presents."

The Prudential is still searching for a director of fund management, and the headhunters are out in force. In addition, the estate division is looking for at least seven property analysts to establish an in-house research team to complement those working on economics and equities.

Mr Mallinson is in overall charge of the restructured



£20m mix of retailing and leisure

ARC Properties, a subsidiary of ARC, the building products and construction group, plans a £20 million retail warehouse and leisure park on a 70-acre site at Maidstone, Kent. A model of the proposed

development, to be known as Compass Park, is shown above. The scheme will have 300,000 sq ft of retailing with an hotel, multi-screen cinema and restaurant making up the 100,000 sq ft leisure element.

The site adjoins ARC Properties' industrial park on Junction 5 of the M25. A planning appeal is likely to be heard in February. The company's property development now totals £209 million.

THE SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN PROPERTY PLC

"Significantly altered portfolio bearing fruit"

- ★ Property assets have increased from £92.6 million to £121.1 million since 1981.
- ★ 1986 gross rental income £8.83 million - up £3.52 million since 1981.
- ★ 1986 gross dividend 6.0p per share - up 60% since 1981.
- ★ £30 million Debenture Stock issued in September 1986.
- ★ Increasing concentration on property development.

"Anticipated growth in rental income will enable the Board to continue its policy of paying increased dividends on an annual basis."

David Walton, CHAIRMAN

Stock Exchange House, 69 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1BE.



Good news for retailers

The TFS system for refunding VAT to overseas visitors has now been operating nationwide for several months, and has been fully proven by hundreds of small retailers as well as major groups such as Jaeger, Country Casuals and Dunn & Co. Further recognition of TFS as the market leader in this field is provided by Chester Marketing Bureau and Colchester Chamber of Trade, who have recently adopted the TFS scheme.

At no cost to the retailer, TFS relieves him of the entire administrative burden, simplifies the transaction at point of sale, and encourages spending by overseas visitors.

The shopper also benefits, since he receives his refund within just a few days, in the form of a single cheque in the currency of his choice.

For further information, just send us your business card or call us on (01)-839 4556.

TOURIST TAX FREE SHOPPING LIMITED
Norway House, 21-24 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN
(VIA LONDON TAX FREE SHOPPING,
CHESTER TAX FREE SHOPPING
and COLCHESTER TAX FREE SHOPPING)

Agreed bid for Imry

Arbuthnot Properties, the private company set up by Mr Martin Myers, a former partner of Jones Lang Wootton, is the agreed bidder for Imry Property Holdings. This, in spite of demands from Mr Myers only two weeks ago when he said he was too busy with "the big one" to be considering such a move. He

was referring to Arbuthnot's plan to redevelop the St George's Hospital site at Hyde Park Corner, London.

Details of the agreed bid will be announced shortly. It is likely that a new company will be formed into which the interests of Arbuthnot and Imry will be injected.

The restructuring at the

Prudential is a sign of the times in the property market. The same is true of Abaco's acquisition - announced this week - of Hampton & Sons, the estate agent.

Hampton was aware that it had to maintain and improve its market position. Several options were explored in its desire to move away from a partnership structure in a market which increasingly demands more capital investment and expansion.

Mr Hamilton Verschoyle, senior partner at Hampton, said that he had considered selling part of the firm to outside interests, an arrangement which had existed with Greyhound, the United States company which formerly had a stake in Hampton.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
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Consolidated Crds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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Reliance

India's largest* company is also one of the fastest growing

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From a medium-sized textile manufacturer with sales of Rs. 690 million in 1977, Reliance has become a leading integrated manufacturer of synthetic textiles and fibres with sales of over Rs. 7,000 million in 1985.

Today Reliance is the largest manufacturer of polyester yarns and fibres in India.

As a part of its vertical integration programme, Reliance is in the process of expanding its

manufacturing activities in petrochemicals - PTA and MEG, the essential raw materials for the manufacture of polyester.

Reliance is diversifying into the manufacture of other new products - LAB (a detergent intermediate), PVC and HDPE (high grade plastics).

Reliance also has plans to diversify into electronics.

With the support of more investors than any other company in India, over 1.8 million today, Reliance has plans for the future.

RUPEES IN MILLIONS	1977	1985	%age growth over 1977
SALES	689.80	7,162.89	938%
NET PROFIT	29.30	713.37	2334%
TOTAL ASSETS	169.99	7,356.86	4227%
NET WORTH	95.41	3,111.17	3161%
TOTAL DIVIDENDS	8.93	257.52	2783%

Issue of 13.5% Secured Fully Convertible Debentures of 145 Indian Rupees each. Each compulsorily convertible into two Reliance shares at the end of 12 months at a conversion price of Rs. 72.50 per share. The average price of the shares during the week of 8th November was around Rs. 220 per share.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for the Debentures. Full details of the offer are contained in an Offering Circular dated 1st December 1986 on the terms of which alone investment in the Debentures may be made. For a copy of the Offering Circular and application forms please contact any of the following banks:

- Grindlays Bank P.L.C., 13, St. James Square, LONDON SW1
- Bank of Baroda, 31/32 King Street, LONDON EC2
- Holbeck House, 63/65 Moseley St., MANCHESTER M2 3LP
- 175, Soho Road, Handsworth, BIRMINGHAM B21-9SU
- 32, Ealing Road, WEMBLEY BREST, MIDDLESEX HA0 4TL
- State Bank of India, State Bank House, 1, Milk Street, LONDON EC2
- 6, 30 Finchley Road, LONDON NW 11
- Clarendon House, 10/12, Clifford Street, LONDON NW 1
- Kings House, The Green, SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX
- 30, Clare Street, BRISTOL
- American Express Bank Ltd., Winchester House, 77, London Wall, LONDON EC2
- Camera Bank, P.O. Box No 1743, 14, Moor Lane, LONDON EC2

*in terms of market capitalization

ISSUE OPENING DATE: 22-12-86
CLOSING DATE: 24-12-86

Reliance

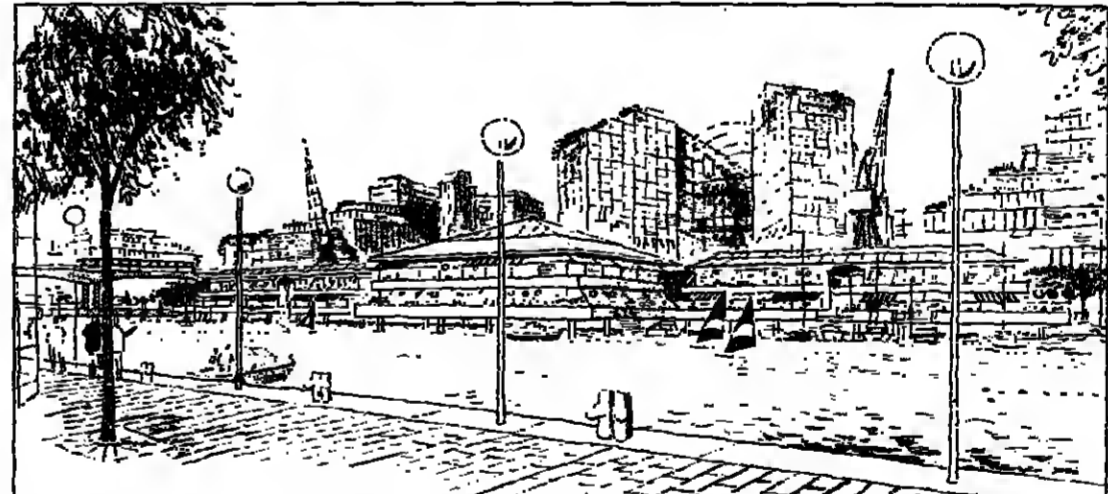
is strategic growth

Reliance Industries Limited
Regd Office: Maker Chambers IV
222, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021, India
Tel: 245340 Telex: 011-5542 VMAL IN 011-2950 VMAL IN

Reliance Industries Limited invite Non-Resident Indians to attend Investor's Conferences at:

- Date: December 12, 1986 (Friday)
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Place: Grand Hall (The Connaught Room) Great Queen Street, London W.C.2
- Date: December 13, 1986 (Saturday)
Time: 5.30 p.m.
Place: Wembley Conference Centre, (Severn Suite) Wembley, Middlesex.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities remain firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end December 19. Contango day December 22. Settlement day January 5. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

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Portfolio Gold advertisement with a list of 44 companies and their sectors, including Magnolia, Applford, Nottingham Brck, etc.

Please take account of any minus signs. Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns for days of the week (MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT) and a 'Weekly Total' column.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table listing short-term investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing medium-term investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing long-term investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

UNDATED

Table listing undated investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked investments with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount rates with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E.

BREWERIES table listing companies like Asahi, Beck's, and their stock prices.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table listing companies like Anglo, Bovis, and their stock prices.

FINANCE AND LAND table listing companies like Anglo, Bank of Scotland, and their stock prices.

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table listing companies like ICI, Shell, and their stock prices.

CINEMAS AND TV table listing companies like British Screen, and their stock prices.

DRAPERY AND STORES table listing companies like Debenhams, and their stock prices.

ELECTRICALS table listing companies like British Telecom, and their stock prices.

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Vertical advertisements on the left margin including 'THE SCOTTISH METROPOLITAN PROPERTY PLC', 'PROPERTY PLC', 'CAP', 'ACCURATION', 'APPROVED', 'E', 'LEIS', 'rfront', 'klands', 'h 2 1 90', 'ft. 7000000000', 'Spring 1988'.

© Ex dividend a Ex b Forecast dividend c Interim payment d special dividend e Dividend and forecast earnings f Ex other e Ex right a Ex share split f Tax-free. No significant data.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

December 11, 1986

Employers offering careers in information technology are diverse in character and need. They range from the data-processing departments of commercial organizations to defence technology specialists, from hardware manufacturers to training companies. Within such a broad spectrum, it is reasonable to suppose that room exists for a multiplicity of talents and personalities.

Yet when it comes to choosing the graduate intake — those to be groomed as future leaders of our industry — too often the aim is to recruit from one very narrow band of intellects and skills. As a man who has never touched a computer in his life, I must believe that this policy is wrong.

It is at the recruitment stage —

before the business of information technology has been learned — that we can most afford to hire an overall potential rather than an existing limited level of expertise. We must cast the net wider and encourage able, non-computing graduates to bring their ideas and approaches to our business. Only in this way is it possible to breed the level of balance within an IT company necessary for it to serve its markets and satisfy its operational requirements and its environmental needs.

On the Hoskyns Group's 20th anniversary, we ran an advertising campaign based on the theme, "Our People Are Our Success". It is still true today. As a computer services company, our major products, or representation of our products, are people. We must be able to deal and communicate

Potential and skills are equally important in the recruitment of graduates, says Geoff Unwin



with a wide range of clients and their employees, from stock-brokers to freight hauliers, from shopfloor to boardroom. Providing beneficial, practical business solutions is as much about understanding people and their business as it is about understanding technology. And as the application of technology be-

comes ever more pervasive, so the need for interpersonal and interpretive skills becomes more important. As a computer services organization, we need to offer this mix of skills. At a graduate-entry level, we must seek to ensure a broad base of intake to satisfy this

People are hired not only for their abilities to make an immediate contribution to the business but also for their long-term potential. Graduates, for example, all go through the same basic training. We do, however, also look to them to develop in order to satisfy future staff needs. We need to be able to support not only technical requirements but also those of other functions: sales, marketing, production, for example.

To recruit only computer scientists, who by their degree have generally indicated a desire to pursue a technological career, would not help to support our long-term needs. It is important to draw on capable graduates of all disciplines and provide them with a business career in the technology sector. The continuing growth of the industry and the organizations

within it demands a constant input of new ideas and approaches. Creativity is all about looking at things from different perspectives. We believe that our policy of ensuring a mixed graduate intake contributes to the creative process and helps to maintain our competitive edge. We also believe it generates a livelier and more interesting working environment.

At a time when the skills shortage makes the recruitment of quality staff at all levels a difficult proposition, it falls to the industry to see what it can do to alleviate these problems. Simply competing for computer science graduate output does nothing to help medium-term and long-term staffing problems. Nor does it help to develop the stock of talent available in the industry.

In no way would I underestimate the value of those with technological qualifications, both to my own company and to IT in general. Although they will remain the prime source of graduate talent, they should not remain the only one. It is commonplace in other businesses — particularly in the financial sector — to take the best minds, regardless of academic discipline, and train them in "technical" skills. We believe this sort of policy plays an important part in our overall recruitment strategy. It is an approach the industry as a whole would do well to embrace.

Geoff Unwin is managing director of Hoskyns Group, the computer services company that is planning a full listing on the London Stock Exchange next week.

APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481 — APPOINTMENTS PHONE: 01-481 4481

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For this project, we seek bachelor status, male candidates, aged 24-26, qualified HND — Business Studies with French to 'A' Level and fluent in this language. We require not less than 2 years broad post qualification commercial/administrative experience, ideally an engineering and contracts environment, exposure to third world conditions and the particular business and social challenges, gained possibly through V.S.O. in Africa. Reporting to the resident Administration Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for the provision of a full range of administrative and back up services including basic accounting, management reporting, logistics support, and communications together with personnel planning and local staff development. Essential qualities are a talent for problem solving, tenacity and adaptability, the will to meet objectives with the minimum of supervision, thereby making a significant contribution to the overall success of this project. Initial tax free salary negotiable circa £20,000, terminal gratuity, 30 annual leave with passages, free life assurance, full medical cover, use of transport, accommodation all found and relocation expenses. Applications in strict confidence under reference 4453/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

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This vacancy calls for candidates, aged 23-35, who will have acquired not less than 2 years practical experience, either in a professional accountancy practice or in a treasury department, who wish to capitalise on their experience. Following a full training in compliance work, the successful candidate will be responsible for checking on internal staff dealings, the impact of capital adequacy tests, every aspect of monitoring deals and the continual up-date on the Panel of the Stock Exchange and the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation. An enquiring and alert mind and the ability to relate well at all levels is important. Initial remuneration negotiable, £17,000 — £19,000 + subsidised mortgage, contributory pension, free life assurance, free family BUPA, free permanent health scheme. Applications in strict confidence under reference TACO 298/TT, to the Managing Director: ACP.

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As one of the key and highly visible arms of The Stock Exchange, the Quotations Department is central to the regulation of the market and the protection of investors. It is being developed and reorganised.

The Department is responsible for the admission of companies to listing and the continual update of information likely to affect share values of listed, USM and Third Market companies, thus controlling compliance with listing requirements. These are highly specialised activities which already have excellent policy and technical support and employ 125 professional and administrative staff.

We now need an outstanding manager of people to drive the Department's activities forward.

This is an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the effective management and overall promotion of this Department, joining the management team at a senior level.

You are likely to be aged 35-45 and a graduate and you must have a proven track record of general managerial achievement, particularly in change or development situations, gained in a large financial, industrial or commercial enterprise. Your skills in organisation, control and communication will enable you to take up a key role in the department in a period of evolving global financial markets.

Salary will be negotiable to £40,000, plus car, non-contributory pension scheme, six weeks' holiday, travel assistance and private health scheme.

Please write in strict confidence with full career details to:

Mrs Rhiannon Chepman, Head of Personnel, The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE
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Closely relevant experience and an excellent track record in the sector will be required, with a proven ability to raise sums in excess of £100,000 through charitable events. Management, communication and creative skills, as well as energy, drive and enthusiasm, are among the characteristics needed. A substantial salary will reflect the importance of the position.

Please write, with personal details, to Spencer Stuart, 113 Park Lane, London W1Y 4HJ, which is the consultancy helping with this appointment, quoting the reference 7451.

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We are an established building contractor specialising in refurbishment work in the Greater London area and due to our increased work load we are seeking additional Quantity Surveyors to work on various contracts.

Applicants should be capable of carrying out all aspects of quantity surveying with a minimum of supervision and have experience of refurbishment work.

Successful applicants will enjoy a negotiated salary, a monthly profit sharing scheme related to performance, 5 weeks holiday, company car and prospects for further advancement within our expanding organisation.

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Phone for an application form: Mrs A. Emson, VAT Watkins Ltd, 1230 High Road, Whetstone, London N20 0LH. Tel: 01-446 1333

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1. DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
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3. DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Starting salary £18,197 p.a. on 3-point scale, plus £1,465 p.a. London Weighting.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting phase of development and are not afraid of a challenge, please send for details from: Personnel Officer, RNID 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. Mike Whitlam, Chief Executive, would be happy to discuss the posts with you informally by phone 01-387 8033; Telephone Exchange for the Deaf 01-387 2105 or 1475.

Closing date for completed applications 2nd January 1987.

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As considerable travel is anticipated, at least one other European language would be preferred.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications and is backed by generous benefits, including guaranteed annual bonus, Outer London Allowance, car, non-contributory pension scheme, 25 days' holiday and relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please send a detailed cv to Mrs M A Model, Company Personnel Officer, Glaxo Animal Health Limited, Breckspear Road South, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 6LS. Telephone: Ruislip (0895) 630266.

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Candidates will need to be energetic and intelligent with proven people-management skills and an ability to grasp administrative systems and to suggest alternatives where appropriate.

A knowledge of the microcomputer world and/or prior experience of engineering or logistics management would be advantageous but not essential. What is essential is the ability to make things happen and to ensure the highest level of service and support, and to run a tight ship.

If you are in your late 20s to mid 30s and fit the above description and can convince us why you should be considered for these challenging opportunities, please write with career details to: Mrs Laura Krollman, Personnel Manager, Borsari Ltd, 112-118 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HL (NO AGENCIES).

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The post carries an excellent salary, which will be set according to experience and qualifications, plus a car and normal company benefits.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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If you have at least an HNC in Electronics and can demonstrate a successful track record in process control engineering, our client can offer you a stimulating career opportunity. The salary offered will be c.£15,000 p.a. and will be commensurate with experience. Company benefits include 5 weeks annual holiday and a non-contributory pension scheme.

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience please send your cv, highlighting your main achievements to date to: Sarah Bryson, Moxon Dolphin & Kerby Ltd, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6JJ, quoting ref: 4450. Please state in a covering letter any companies to whom your application should not be sent.

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Developing the quality systems behind a leading light in consumer finance

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Essentially pragmatic, you will combine technical expertise with the creative drive that produces results on time, every time. Eager to lead a small team of QA Professionals, you must have the interpersonal skills to inspire others and help create a quality-conscious environment throughout the organisation. This is a demanding, high profile post offering unparalleled further career prospects to the really capable, imaginative and practical QA specialist. The salary package is highly inviting, and large company benefits include low cost loan and mortgage facilities, non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and health care. If you can rise to this opportunity, write now with full CV to Nigel Rogers, Citibank Savings, St Martin's House, Harrington Grove, London W6 0NY.

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Current Affairs, Television
West London

Breakfast Time — Newsnight — Money Programme — Question Time — Panorama — That's Life — This Week Next Week.
Do you want to work on these BBC Television Current Affairs programmes? Do you have a strong journalistic background and experience of television production and, above all, an abiding interest in political and social events both in Britain and abroad? If so, then BBC Television, Current Affairs, may have the opportunity you seek. Assistant Producers are expected to contribute both editorially and technically to the devising, preparation and production of programmes. This includes programme research, gallery and film direction, selection and briefing of contributors and the rapid shaping of ideas into written and visual form in accordance with the Editor's and Producer's brief.
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To join the newsroom team working primarily on the preparation and production of the station's news output and current affairs programmes, including newsreading, interviewing and reporting. In addition, you may produce feature programmes and take part in announcing duties.
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Are you a young, ambitious reporter with at least three years' journalistic experience? If so, these stations have vacancies that may interest you. The work is primarily reporting, interviewing, bulletin writing and newsreading. Good microphone voice and current driving licence essential.
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Person familiar with Engineering and Design of Radio Receivers and Transmitters, must be knowledgeable in Antennae (directional and Loops), Miniaturisation of Receivers and Transmitters. Schooling not essential.

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It's an excellent opportunity to join an important and elite team, holding considerable respect within the organisation, where you will develop your skills and gain a wide understanding of all areas of information systems, while enjoying the scope for regular international travel.

For both positions you will need to be a graduate in electronics, be self motivated with good communications skills and have the ability to work as part of a team.

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Specifically you will need at least 2 years experience of telematics in either an IT consultancy or telecommunications supplier. You will also need a working knowledge of the following: * Data networks * Packet switching and PABX's * Theory, practice and protocols of facsimile, video text, teletex, E, Mail

systems and IBM/PC. Ideally, you will also have the ability to program in Basic or C. (Ref: 562/T).

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We will expect you to have at least 2 years experience in IBM IPARS and a similar knowledge of Data networks, packet switching and telematics. You should also be able to show an understanding of Videcom or Travecom systems and have worked as an Engineer on Airline Reservation Systems covering all aspects of the relevant hardware and software. (Ref: 561/T).

If you are not already qualified you should be in the process of gaining formal Institution Qualifications for which we will provide full support. We also have an excellent training programme plus exceptional opportunities for you to develop your career, both within the department or with any of our many international operations.

In return for your contribution, an attractive package will include a starting salary of c.£14,500, flexible working hours, 22 days' annual holiday and contributory pension scheme.

For more information please telephone us on 01-405 4980 (24 hrs) or write for an application form to: The Recruitment Manager, Cable and Wireless plc, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RX quoting the appropriate reference.

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An experienced **WAREHOUSE MANAGER** is required at our Hackney distribution centre as a result of the previous occupant's promotion. You would be responsible for a 3-shift operation handling seasonal peaks with 80 staff including shift management and supervision. You will need to demonstrate that this is one of your strengths. If opportunity is one of your reasons for seeking a move, we would like to discuss your expectations.

We would like a **PLANNING ASSISTANT** to join our exclusively small operations team based at Tottenham and make a creative contribution to the Division's warehouse, trucking, collection and delivery planning. We see this as a career opportunity for a graduate or as development for you if you already have experience in this field.

The remuneration package will be what you expect from a very competitive business.

Phone us on 01-808 3040 for an application form, or-

Write to the Group Personnel Manager, enclosing your CVs, at-
691/687, High Road, Tottenham, N17 6AZ

Please mark your envelope **WAREHOUSE MANAGER** or **PLANNING ASSISTANT**.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

London Office
Chicago Board of Trade

Newly created post reporting to Managing Director, European operations, in first CBOT office outside USA, initially to market basic Futures/Options support for all CBOT products to European users. As Number Two Europe he or she will handle Marketing, Trade PR, Research and Projects across the whole European user community as front-line to Chicago back-up.

Written/oral communication skill of prime importance with some Trade related Exchange experience viz. Cash/Futures/Options, and probably University Degree or comparable business qualifications. Probably late 20's early 30's, he or she would ideally have some linguistic ability, be familiar with Personal Computers, and have a congenial gregarious nature.

Personal reward on general CBOT terms including car, and usual benefits for responsible attractive career appointment.

Written applications with full CV are invited in complete confidence by Mr P.F. Donnelly, Managing Director,
CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE (CMB)
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Chicago Board of Trade
European Office

PORTSMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

HEAD OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES
Ref: 109b

The person appointed to this new position will be responsible for the development of the Polytechnic's commercial activities in accordance with the provisions of the Further Education Act 1985. Applicants should have substantial commercial and financial experience, and be professionally qualified to degree level.

Experience of Institutions of Higher Education would be an advantage.

Salary: £19,638 - £21,639

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Office, Portsmouth Polytechnic, Nuffield Centre, St Michaels Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 2ED. Telephone (0705) 325431.

Closing date: 5th January 1987

Hampshire County Council pursues a policy of equality of opportunity. Applications are particularly welcome from people with disabilities.

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c£30,000 plus car

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Please contact Brenda Shepherd

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS



is organizing an open competition to recruit a (m/f)

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- Principal conditions for admission to the competition:**
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 - nationality of one of the Member States of the European Communities;
 - minimum age: 40 (date of birth before 20 January 1947);

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Closing date for applications: 19 January 1987.

Copies of the Official Journal containing full details of the competition can be obtained by writing, preferably on a postcard, to:

European Parliament Information Office, Queen Anne's Gate 2, LONDON SW1H 9AA;

or to the European Parliament, Recruitment Service, L-2929 LUXEMBOURG;

quoting reference PE/41/A.

Applications on the forms contained in the Official Journal should be sent to the European Parliament, Recruitment Service, L-2929 LUXEMBOURG.

Career opportunity requiring receptive mind and a sense of urgency to work in a fast changing environment.

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You will be the operational controller dealing with immediate problems calling for quick solutions, either resolving the situation yourself or knowing when to call in technical support from other departments. Other important aspects of this role are the continuing systems development activities, introducing new

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Operational management skills developed in middle management or as a team leader preferably in a technical or systems related role will be important. A financial/securities industry background will be an advantage, however you must have a gut feel for the speed and implications of operating in a market environment.

Excellent fringe benefits include free travel, BUPA and non-contributory pension.

Please reply with full CV to: Jennifer Gregson, Personnel Manager, The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP. Tel: 01-588 2355 ext. 28123.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

Chief Executive

£25 - 28,000

Telford

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Aged 35-47 and preferably degree educated, you should be able to demonstrate a successful record of management achievement within manufacturing industry. Currently in a senior role, and contributing at the highest levels, your considerable administrative and intellectual abilities will naturally be augmented by proven leadership qualities. An appreciation of training complemented by financial expertise is also essential. Possibly even more important is the innovative flair and professional far-sightedness needed for a role so intimately concerned with the future of this industry.

An impressive negotiable rewards package in the region of £25-28,000 is offered together with a quality car, contributory pension and relocation assistance to Telford.

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PER Management Selection

Director

PROUDMAN OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY
BIDSTON OBSERVATORY

up to £27,065

The Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory at the Bidston Observatory, formerly a component of the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, will be established as an independent laboratory within the NERC Marine Sciences Directorate from April 1987. The Director of the Laboratory will be responsible for the Director Marine Sciences for the leadership of the scientific programmes based at the Laboratory and for the management, scientific quality and productivity of the 70 staff based there.

The programme of research at the Laboratory will initially follow that presently undertaken with the emphasis on Tides and Sea Level and Physics of Shelf Seas and their margins, including aspects of the NERC component of the UK North Sea Project.

The Director will represent the Laboratory and where appropriate NERC, to outside bodies, including government departments and commercial customers to enhance the impact of the science and the ability of the Laboratory to attract financial support. He/she will also consolidate and increase scientific links with Universities and other relevant bodies, and liaise with other parts of the Marine Sciences Directorate and of NERC.

The Director will be a Marine Physicist of international standing capable of furthering the Laboratory's reputation as a centre of excellence in oceanographic research.

The appointment is pensionable under the NERC super-annuation scheme. Terms and conditions are similar to those in the British Civil Service.

Application forms may be obtained from Mr W Hall at the address given below or by telephoning (0793) 40101 extn. 423. Completed applications, including a full CV should be sent to the Establishment Officer, Natural Environment Research Council, Polar House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1EU, not later than 9 January 1987.

The Natural Environment Research Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer. All jobs in the UK are open to men and women of all ethnic groups and the Council also welcomes applications from disabled people.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE

Applications are invited for the post of Director of Science of the Zoological Society of London in succession to Professor J P Hearn. The Director is responsible to the Secretary of the Society for the implementation of scientific policy; he, the Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Zoos are the senior members of the Society's executive. Scientific activities include the programme of the Institute of Zoology, the publications and meetings of the Society (through an Assistant Director of Science) and the Library. The Institute carries out basic and applied research in animal physiology with relevance to agriculture, conservation and medicine. Close collaboration is fostered with the Universities, Research Council Institutes and hospitals in the UK, and with similar institutions abroad. There are approximately 100 staff including associates. About 50% of the funding is raised through applications to grant-awarding bodies.

Candidates should have a substantial record of biological research and management experience. Currently the salary for the post starts at £23,730, being equivalent to the open structure grade 5 of the Civil Service scale in four incremental steps plus London Weighting of £1,395.

Applications, with full C.V., list of publications and the names of three persons willing to act as referees, should be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, The Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY to arrive by 31st January 1987. Further details can be provided on request.

Financial Accounting Manager

Satchwell Control Systems of Slough is a leader in its field producing advanced environmental control and energy management systems.

The company needs a mature chartered accountant to assume control of all financial accounting activities, organising and motivating a team of over 20 people.

Previous experience should include purchase and sales ledger, credit control, export, treasury and the preparation of statutory accounts and consolidation schedules. It would be an advantage to be familiar with the use of on-line computers and micro-based systems.

If you would enjoy the challenge of working in a busy, successful company, please contact: J. Dunlop, Satchwell Control Systems Ltd., P.O. Box 57, Farnham Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4UH.



Satchwell

Systems Technology Engineer

Workshop, North Notts.

Steeley Refractories Limited, wish to appoint a Systems Technology Engineer to be responsible to the Operations Director, for the identification of potential markets and products within the various refractory sectors: to produce advice on refractory design and product modification in line with anticipated changes in process technology, and conduct research into specific areas of refractory development.

This is a highly specialised position requiring a multi-disciplined approach. Candidates must be able to demonstrate considerable commercial awareness and judgement, possess a 2nd Degree in a Metallurgically related subject and be of Chartered Engineer Status.

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Applicants must possess strong communications skills and good general business awareness together with a capacity to innovate and to work independently.

The position will be based in the West End and will attract the normal range of banking benefits.

For further details of this and other current opportunities, please contact Philippa Dillel on 01-583 0073 or Robert Digby (who can be reached outside office hours on 01-570 1896).

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HORIZONS

A guide to career development

The testing times that lie ahead

Tests for personality and intelligence are an increasingly popular employer's tool when assessing a candidate's ability. Miranda Hughes in the second of a two-part series



Employers today often use personality and intelligence tests to assess potential candidates. These tests have been devised to give an objective and quantitative assessment. They contain absolutely no magic (despite the fact that they are known by the awe-inspiring term 'psychometric tests').

If you are confronted with such a test, the best strategy is to take a deep breath and to work through the questions quickly and honestly.

Personality tests are designed to assess people on qualities such as leadership, social responsibility and orderliness. The most widely used test is Cattell's 16PF, which measures 16 'personality factors'.

It has been developed in the US over the past 30 years, and its accuracy has been validated with several groups of

A deep breath and a quick, truthful reply is called for people in the UK. Of all the tests in use, this one is probably the most academically respectable, but you may come across other tests such as Myers-Briggs, d.i.s.c., and OPO.

Most tests require you to respond to statements such as 'authority should generally be respected' or 'I always reply to letters on the day I receive them'. Sometimes you may be asked to pick one of four words which best describe how you see yourself.

For example, you could choose one of authoritarian, friendly easy-going, God-fearing, from the same set, you would then be asked to choose the word which best describes how others see you.

Statistical analysis of how people answer these types of questions has enabled psychologists to identify specific personality traits on which individuals may achieve a range of scores.

For instance, person A may be low on extraversion, a little above average on general anxiety and high on social responsibility (possibly an accountant or a vicar), whereas person B may be the exact converse - highly extrovert, not particularly anxious about life, and not desperate to conform to social norms (possibly an actor, although he too could be a vicar).

It is important to recognize that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers in

personality tests so honesty is the best policy. As yet, no one has been able to define ideal personality profiles for particular jobs, so these tests are purely descriptive.

Indeed, none of these tests can guarantee to give a wholly accurate picture of an individual, and no self-respecting firm would ever use them to reject (or accept) a candidate without an interview.

If you complete such a test, employers should be prepared to discuss the results with you. Sometimes you will find the results surprising and you should be prepared to point out how you believe they fail to describe you accurately. In the ideal professional assessment, a psychologist will have administered and scored the test and will be able to respond to your criticism.

In summary, personality tests are not infallible; they should not be used by unqualified personnel but preferably by psychologists, and they should upset no one. And remember, if you don't like the way they describe you there are two alternatives - either the test is a dud, or you can start working out how to change yourself for the better.

Intelligence tests are a rather different matter, they are designed to test the level of an individual's basic ability, and can be used to identify individuals who might be unsuited to professional careers.

Most such tests distinguish three aspects of intelligence: verbal ability, numerical ability and the ability to deal with spatial concepts. For example, some verbal items may test your ability to develop a logical argument from a set of written premises, whereas spatial items may test your ability to deal with such concepts as image rotation and representation.

Recent tests have been developed with reference to particular sets of skills, so GMA (Graduate and Managerial Assessment) looks at verbal skills in terms of ability to work with management information, and numerical skills in terms of the ability to interpret (and use) information from tales and graphs.

There are many reasons why people fail to do themselves justice on these tests, some of which can be overcome simply by being adequately prepared. There are several books available (of the

test your own IQ genre) which contain the sort of questions used in tests, and these can be used to gain familiarity and confidence.

As with personality tests, intelligence tests should never be administered or scored by untrained personnel. Qualified psychologists know how the tests are constructed, and their interpretation of data makes use of this knowledge and recognizes the limitations of the tests.

In particular, there are some common misconceptions about intelligence tests which make their use by the untrained, potentially dangerous. There are two important issues which are worth mentioning here.

First, intelligence is dynamic - people can become more intelligent by using their skills, or less intelligent by allowing

An objective analysis of strengths and weaknesses their skills to atrophy through disuse. Second, intelligence tests are not 'culture free' - they should not be used to compare individuals from significantly different cultural backgrounds.

Psychometric testing can, and does, provide useful measurement tools for employers, and prospective employees need not be intimidated by them.

In the past, testing has been successfully used to provide information on senior executives in firms which have been recently taken-over, thereby enabling new management to have an objective analysis of their employees' strengths and weaknesses.

It is also highly appropriate in the selection of senior executives for positions which require certain personality characteristics, such as the ability to withstand stress, push through unpopular decisions, or create a new strategic direction for the business.

At the other end of the scale it has been used for prospective entrants to a Youth Training Scheme. Employers using these tests are paving the way to improved selection methods. While the tests may not yet be perfect, they are a step in the right direction for achieving the best employee-employer match.

Miranda Hughes is a psychologist and an Associate of the British Psychological Society.

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Candidates with outstanding track records and an entrepreneurial approach to business should contact Chris Verney on 01-572 7400. Alternatively write to him, at: Prime Computer UK Limited, 2-4 Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1JW.



The Times' seasonal good fishing tackle guide: a question of what to buy, and then what to use it for

Tackling the ghost of Christmas presents: A buyer's guide to fishing

Choosing fishing tackle presents a bewildering minefield for those outside the pastime. Golden, fishing columnist, author of 20 books on the subject covering sea and fresh water, and occasional tackle-designer, clarifies some of the mysteries.

Nobody knows exactly how many fishermen there are in Britain, or how much they spend. Conservative estimates suggest that fly, coarse and sea fishing combined attract at least two million regular participants, and continue to expand despite vitriolic pressure from the anti-bloodsport and ecology lobbies.

Sales of fishing tackle alone comfortably exceed £50 million a year, travel, bait, licences, accommodation and fuel, together probably boost the total beyond £150 million. On the personal level, expenditure ranges from less than £25 a year for the holiday angler to over £5,000 for highly-competitive match fishermen on the national and European circuits.

Fishing today, whether fly, coarse or saltwater, thrives on innovation and, more than anglers care to admit, on a leavening of sheer gimmickry. A perfectly competent rod, reel, line and accessories for any branch of the sport can be bought for less than £75. The enthusiast owns at least £1,000 worth of tackle, and thinks nothing of spending £120 on a carbon fibre rod.

Advancing into the realms of Space Age materials and highly specialised equipment for match, carp and pike fishing (the Big Three of the coarse fishing scene), you can spend a fortune on electronic bite detectors, clothing, nets, and even computerized reels that measure how far you cast. The most expensive rods - 35-foot-long sectioned poles of carbon fibre - cost over £600 each.

The ultimate cruisers cost over £250,000

Beach fishing tackle is geared to long-range casting performance: powerful carbon fibre rods and highly-tuned reels that can throw a five-ounce lead weight almost 300 yards.

And for the well-heeled boat fisherman who is bored with North Sea cod, why not his own boat for those marlin fishing trips to New Zealand and Brazil? The ultimate in 50ft. twin turbo-Diesel cruisers costs more than £250,000, plus around £50,000 for

radios, electronic fish-finders, radar, satellite navigation system and assorted extras.

Times being hard, the boatyard will certainly toss in a couple of free big-game rods and reels at £1,000 a pair, just to sweeten the deal. The good news is that a bucket of fresh mullet bait still leaves change out of a dollar at any fish market south of the Azores.

Choosing a gift can so easily end in disaster

Fly-fishing is split between the increasingly exclusive - because it is a shrinking natural resource - world of wild sea trout, salmon and brown trout in streams and rivers, and the wealth of reservoir and still-water fishing for stocked brown and rainbow trout available throughout the country at £10-15 a day. A season ticket for a local water would make an ideal Christmas present.

Serious coarse anglers specialise in match-fishing or specimen-hunting - chasing big pike, carp, tench and other freshwater species deemed worthy of the time and effort. The obvious division in saltwater is between beach and boat, with the former more popular - and accessible - by far.

The scope and diversity of fishing means that choosing a Christmas gift for your favourite angler can so easily end in disaster. The social barriers of fishing may have tumbled, but the battle lines of pride and preference remain clearly drawn. A maggot-box for a salmon fisherman or a multiplier reel to the coarse matchman is the piscatorial equivalent of waving a red rag at a bull.

Making the distinction between coarse, fly and sea fishing is a vital prelude to a successful shopping spree. The items here are specially selected for their angler appeal and price range, and are state-of-the-art in quality and design. All good fishing tackle shops - every town has at least one - should carry them, or something virtually identical.

Don't be afraid to ask for advice. If in doubt, play safe with gloves, scissors or a gift token. Hooks, weights, floats and throw-away items known collectively as "terminal tackle" seem to get used up at an alarming rate, and are always welcome.

This winter's state-of-the-art tackle, guaranteed to hook a wide range of Christmas fishermen

1. Solivrona folding landing net, £17.95: A welcome gift for any trout fisherman.
2. The best fishing books of 1986: *Carp Fever* by Kevin Maddocks (Beckey, £10.95); *Carp Quest for Great Britain and Europe* (Crowood Press, £15.95); *Robson's Guide to Stillwater Trout Flies* by Kenneth Robson (Beckey, £16.95); *Fly Fishing for Salmon and Sea Trout* by Arthur Opleby (Crowood Press, £16.95); *Big File* by Barrie Richards (AdC Black, £9.95); *Tench* by Les Head (Crowood Press, £15.95); *Parasit of Carp and Catfish* by Kevin Maddocks (Beckey, £15.95); *Casting at the Sun* by Chris Yates (Pelham Books, £12.95).
3. A vast range of lures, lead-free weights, hooks and floats is available at any tackle shop from 5p to £100. The waterproof, genuine Swiss Army knife by Wenger at £21.00.
4. Electronic bite indicators for the specimen hunter. Optic with volume control, £39.95. Delkin Optic Conversion with volume control and LEDs, £42.00.
5. The most desirable Christmas gift of the year. Hardy Golden Prince salmon reels in mahogany presentation case. Limited edition. £189.75.
6. Fly-fishing flies are a good choice provided that you know the weight and taper required. Masterline Revolution at £16.75 offers good performance at modest cost. The Cortland 444 at £31.95 is regarded as one of the world's best flies. Double-sided dry fly box by Wheatley is a status symbol among trout fishermen. £42.95.
7. Fly-tying kits must be chosen to suit local fishing preferences, so specialist advice is essential. Complete outfits for reservoir, salmon and dry fly trout fishing by Simpson's of Turnford from £60. Individual items from £1. Lever-action fly-tying vice, £19.95.
8. Bruce & Walker Hexagram 15ft fly rod blends Space Age carbon fibre with traditional built cane construction. £290. Simpson's hand built 9 1/2ft reservoir rod is excellent value at £29.99. The reel is a Hardy Marquis 7. £42.35.
9. Mitchell fixed-spool reels are renowned for engineering quality. Model 3005 for coarse fishing and spinning, £35.50. Model 486 at £29.95 for beach fishing.
10. Aludeis stainless steel unbreakable vacuum £27.99 with five-year guarantee. Large capacity Shakespeare coarse tackle box, £39.95.
11. Strong but light, the Steadfast Team

- England rod holdall costs just £29.42. The Kerry Kart carries the largest of tackle boxes, £39.95.
- Canon Breakaway soft-mesh keepnet for the coarse match fisherman. By Steadfast at £2.95 for the 11 1/2-foot version.
- The Hipolito automatic pressure lantern with suit the beach fisherman who likes to stay out all night. £45.95. And for the boat angler, the Mitchell 624 multiplying reel at £44.50, and the Shakespeare Century reel at £44.99.
- The Kevin Nash Rackback is spacious enough for the specimen hunter. £55.00.
- Avon scales at £26.95; Hardy Carryall canvas bag, £40.85.
- Barbour Border waxed cotton coat. Stylish, warm and waterproof. £74.45. Matching hat and wellington boots, £11.40 and £22.50. Hardy sweatshirt, £11.45. Simpson's custom-built Maddocks carp rod, £92.60. Shimano Baitrunner 3500 reel, £59.95. Balcomb soft-mesh landing net will swallow a giant carp or pike with ease. £33.79. 50-inch Nubrolite, £33.95. Kevin Maddocks low chair with adjustable feet, £34.95. Tackle supplied by Simpson's of Turnford, Braxbourne, Hertfordshire.



BOXING

Witherspoon tries his luck on the money round

From Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent, New York

If "Bonercrusher" Smith could not believe his luck when Don King, the promoter, asked him last Thursday to take on Tim Witherspoon, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, as Tony Tubbs had withdrawn from the World heavyweight title unification series, he must have thought Christmas had come early when he learnt yesterday of the money row between Witherspoon and King, his manager. The champion was fuming. According to him, Don King was going around telling people Smith would beat him.

King countered: "He's done this before to get more money. I had an idea he might do it again now he has this smartass lawyer and got the wrinkles out of his belly."

None of this would do Witherspoon any good on the night - if there is a night, the Bone was thinking. If Witherspoon stays smart, the show must go on for the really big money is in the next round when the winner of this bout meets Mike Tyson. But Witherspoon admitted: "I am mentally drained. This has put a couple of years on my career."

The big challenger from North Carolina clenched his fist and said: "I am going to put my best punch on him, get him in trouble and dig him out. I owe him some."

It did not matter now that Witherspoon had beaten him last year. It was on a losing streak then, I am on a winning streak now," Smith said reciting the names of his last three victims: Mike Weaver, Jesse Ferguson and David Bey.

Bonercrusher's manager, Alan Kornberg, who had 48 hectic hours talking terms with King,

said: "Witherspoon is going to see another Bonercrusher. He is the only heavyweight moving up in all three world rankings. He has not fought anybody outside the top 20 since knocking out Bruno."

Both challenger and manager sped past Friday night and were now in March facing the fearsome Mike Tyson. "Tyson is made for Bonercrusher," Kornberg said. "Bonercrusher is the hardest hitter there is today." A pity Don King set for Bonercrusher just as he was about to meet Mitch Green, one of the two men who have gone the distance with Tyson.

"I'm picking up a few things from Tyson on his attitude and I think I have the punch in both hands to hit him as he has never been hit before," Bonercrusher said. Someone asked: "But what about little Joe Frazier who beat you but got knocked out in one round by Tyson?" Kornberg stepped in. "Frazier was the best thing that happened to Bonercrusher. He came back to his hotel, watched the video of the fight and became angry." Smith comes from Magnolia, a town of 2,500 people and out a single traffic light. At 31 he is a late bloomer and came into prominence with his knockout of Frank Bruno in 1984. On the strength of that win he got a title bout with Larry Holmes a few months later and did well in go 12 rounds before being stopped. The 16th round Smith is a graduate of Shaw College where he was more interested in basketball than boxing. He learned boxing in the army. "I crushed a few bones, broke a few noses, fractured a few ribs, that's all and they tagged me Bonercrusher."

SQUASH RACKETS

Davenport's victory helps Skol walk tall

By Colin McQuillan

New Zealand influence on British involvement in American matters is not confined to fantastic plastic performances on the Indian Ocean around Perth.

Ross Norman, the world champion, and Stuart Davenport, his lanky left hander, returned to their respective American Express Premier Squash League squads this week with an effect just as devastating as their nation's impact on the American Cup.

Davenport, ranked third in the world behind Jahangir Khan and Norman led Skol Leicester to a 5-0 victory over Poundstretchers Dunning Mill and straight into the leadership of the national league.

Norman took time off from a publicity round, which has continued since he overtook Jahangir in last month's world Open final, to lead InterCity Cannons into second place in the league with a 4-1 win over Arrow Village.

Poundstretchers, from East Grinstead, led the league from the first fixture this year, and they have still lost only two matches. But, significantly, those were whitewash defeats by the two teams now above them.

"I thought we might have scraped a 3-2 win at Leicester," said Bryn Meredith, the Dunning Mill manager. "We were desperately unlucky not to pick up a couple of points to stay in contention."

Ironically, Meredith's problems stemmed from Philip Kenyon's success on the other side of the world. His top player put together a series of fine matches in the PIA Masters and, on the night his team were trounced at Leicester, Kenyon took a game off Jahangir in the final in Pakistan.

Returning stars do not always succeed, of course. InterCity Cannons dropped what might eventually prove to be a very expensive point when Jamie Hickox hot-footed it back from Karachi - only to lose, after boding match points, against John Le Lievre, the second string for Arrow Village.

Some stars do not return at all. Nottingham, once the strongest club side in the country, sank three places into the league's relegation zone, going down 5-0 to Halls West County with a squad that included neither of their two regular top players, Gawain Briars and Greg Pollard.

RESULTS: Skol Leicester 5 Poundstretchers Dunning Mill 0 InterCity Cannons 4 Arrow Village 1; Manchester Northern 2 Chapel Allerton 3; Halls West County 5 Nottingham 0; Ardagh Hall 6 Vasco Monroe 0.

PREMIER LEAGUE				
Club	P	W	L	Pts
Skol Leicester	8	7	1	42
InterCity Cannons	8	6	2	36
Chapel Allerton	8	6	2	34
West County	8	5	3	28
Ardagh Hall	8	5	3	26
Vasco Monroe	8	2	6	18
Arrow Village	8	0	8	0

Megastars playing the financial game

One of the speakers at a spring dinner this week was Nat Lofthouse, the Lion of Vienna, former Bolton Wanderers and England centre forward, who recalled the days when he and other England internationals like Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney played for England in Europe for £30 a match. "We were proud to pull on the England shirt," Lofthouse said. "The money didn't really matter."

Such naive sentiments find no place in the philosophy of today's megastars, who pay £30 for a haircut and blow dry, and believe the labourer is worthy of his hire, bonus, first class travel fees, expenses, accommodation, suburban villa and job. This has been largely a football phenomenon, but two events this week indicate that the superstar mentality is beginning to pervade Rugby League.

Wally Hanley, whose pay packet at Wigan on a three-year contract has been estimated at £700 a match, give or take a couple of hundred, asked Wigan for a transfer. Then Andy Gregory, the pugnacious little scrum half from Warrington who was Great Britain's outstanding player in the thrilling last international against Australia, asked for a transfer after being suspended by the club for 14 days because of "his attitude towards the club and the board". He had missed two training sessions, saying he was ill on one occasion and that his car broke down on another. The club said he did not inform the club as he did not inform the coach on either occasion, and Gregory's attitude in recent weeks had been "unfortunate".

Gregory, went on to appeal £150,000 and is to appeal against the transfer fee. Without doubt there are two brilliant young players enmeshed in a web of self-esteem. Hanley, who scored 55 tries in a season for Bradford Northern, and cost £150,000 in cash and players when he signed at Wigan, is again the League's leading try scorer with 21. It is leading try scorer with 21. It is unfortunate for him, and for Great Britain that injury reduced his effectiveness in the first international against Australia, and kept him out of

RUGBY LEAGUE DIARY

by Keith Macklin

the remaining two. A fit Hanley could have given the Kangaroos some problems. What triggered his transfer request was the signing of the Australian captain, Wally Lewis, to play a series of matches for Wigan at an alleged £2,000 a match. Ely, used to being the No. 1 idol of the Central Park crowd, had to face the two possibilities of being upstaged by Lewis and losing his stand-off half role. The money must have miffed him, too.

With Andy Gregory, the previous season's international at Wigan, seemed to be genuine pleasure from the day among the people who were there," Don Rutherford, the RFU technical administrator, said. "Quite a few were taken by the demonstration of New Image rugby that preceded the University Match and saw it as a real possibility in schools."

"We have cleared away a lot of resistance to change in rugby," Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, told the conference. "We have a lot of things going for us: the social atmosphere that is generated is a big plus and it does involve the whole family. Demand for tickets is international matches is growing year by year - we have requests for 120,000 tickets for the Irish, Scottish and French matches at Twickenham and 180,000 for the Welsh, in a ground that holds just over 60,000. Every year we return over £1million to the public."

Mr Wood mentioned briefly the problems which have grown up in schools, of a social and industrial nature, but doubted the ability of rugby to alleviate the problem because of the numbers of children involved. Mr Rutherford took no the theme.

David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, examines the RFU's aspirations for rugby in the 1990s

Brighter packaging needed to sell New Image

It remains a widely-held theory, and one which is becoming increasingly erroneous, that rugby union is an aloof sport. This week, the Rugby Football Union, there existed through the country some 24,000 schools.

"We live in an age of change and television," Mr Rutherford said. "Television is the single most magnifying factor devised by man." It was television that had brought American Football - "a most lethal collision-sport when the ball has no relevance whatsoever" - to the fore in this country with a stunning impact, leaving rugby and other sports massively aware of their own shortcomings in presentation.

"American Football realises the importance of women to the American way of life," Mr Rutherford said. "Women are going to shape the future. We have been delighted with the trial runs of New Image rugby and the girls have lapped it up because it gives them a chance to compete against the boys. There has been a women's rugby union for three years and women are moving into the traditional men's clubs."

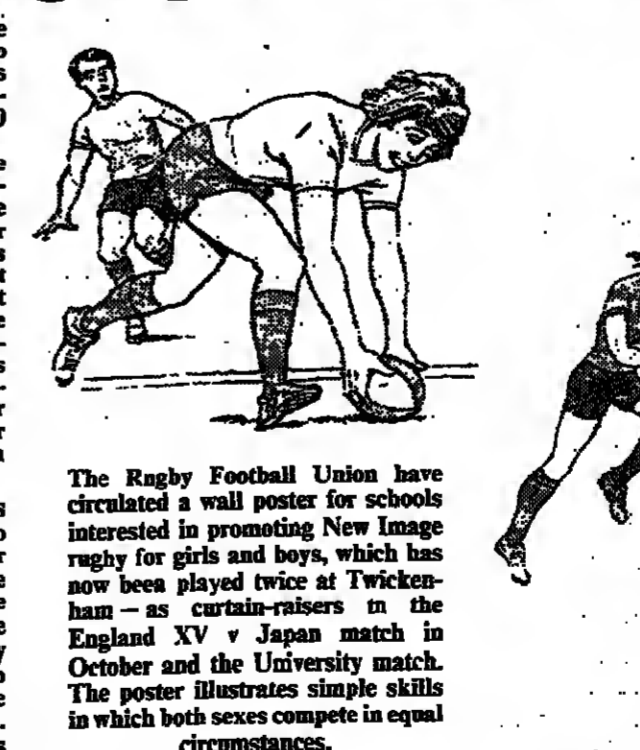
At the attention of the media, Mr Rutherford maintained, was focussed on only one per cent of the people who play rugby; those likely to be involved in the Five Nations tournament and next year's World Cup. "Players with that kind of aspiration move into the area of entertainment; there is going to be much more media hype in the future."

suggesting that though some 2,600 schools were affiliated to the Rugby Football Schools Union, there existed through the country some 24,000 schools.

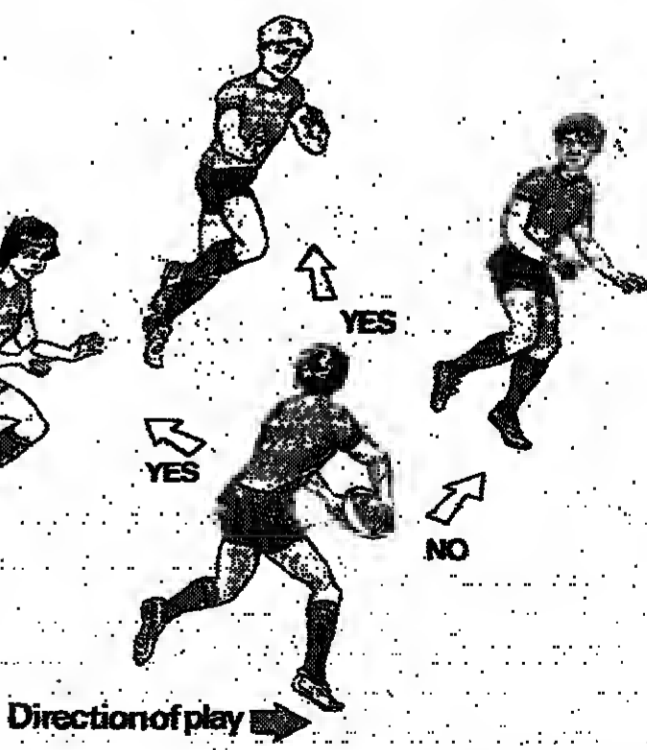
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The Continental school day (incorporating the possibility of school ending in the early afternoon) and the new GCSE syllabus which incorporates a PE section with a club option and an awareness of the political and social problems which face sport.

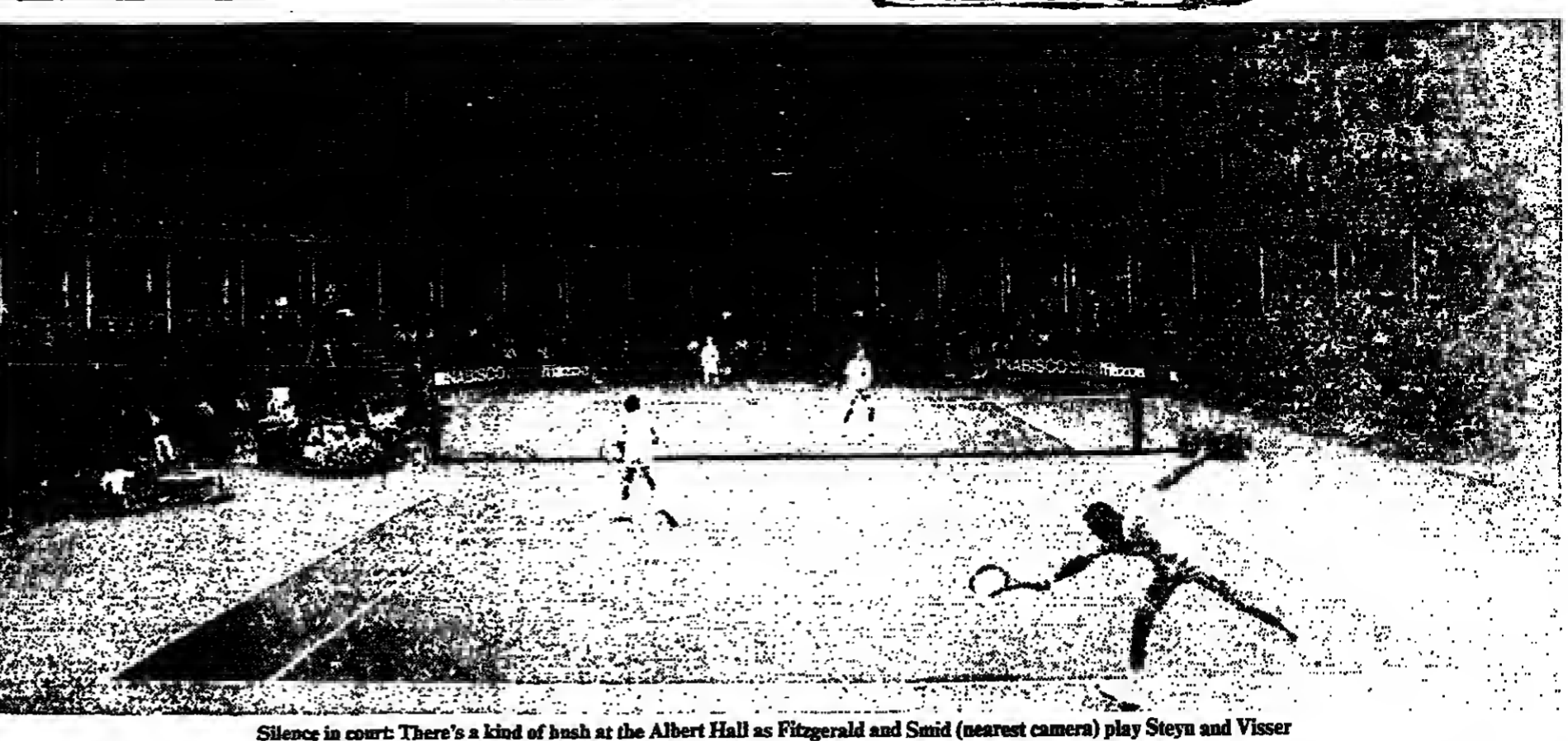


"We are asking our clubs to put a lot more effort into recruitment but we have a dilemma. We would love the educational system to produce the players for us, as traditionally it has, but it's not going to do so. We at Twickenham can offer help, but it's the liaison between clubs and schools which is going to provide the players of the future. We are making our clubs aware of this, asking them to meet school heads to see if they can offer help.

Port lay y... RUGBY UNION The Navy Arsenal emerges ship shape

Fitzgerald and Smid rise to the occasion - by accident

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent John Fitzgerald and Tomas Smid, champions of France and former champions of the United States...



Silence in court: There's a kind of bush at the Albert Hall as Fitzgerald and Smid (nearest camera) play Steyn and Visser

American dream ends, says Canter

Jonathan Canter, the lone American in the Young Masters tournament - after the absence of any Americans in the Masters at Madison Square Garden...

BOC fleet lashed by more gales

By Barry Pickthall Force 11 gales have continued to batter the 19 solo sailors as they head across the seas south of Australia...

Hopes for White Crusader rest on an appeal verdict

White Crusader may live to fight again. The British team has lodged a protest with the international jury against USA...

Lendl retains ITF title

The International Tennis Federation have named Ivan Lendl the world champion of men's tennis for the second successive year...

Scots want world No 1

Ivan Lendl was last night in the middle of a dispute between the British Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and their affiliated counterparts in Scotland...

Tout leads Britain's challenge

Britain's bobbleigh team scaled new heights last night by finishing with all three crews in the top ten of the opening World Cup four-man race...

Light Blues show the better staying power for a treble

By Marcus Williams Oxford... Cambridge... The Light Blues took the lead twice in the first hour...

Shrewsbury stay on top

Schools football by George Chesterton For many schools the season is all but over, since in January they turn to other disciplines...

Welsh squad lay out the welcome mat

By Sydney Friskin Wales have invited West Germany, Spain and England to join them in a quadrangular tournament at Swansea...

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

FA CUP: Second round: Cardiff 2, Brentford 0... Football Combination: Millwall 2, OPR 1...

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

UEFA Cup: Third round, second leg: Bayern 0, Torino 1... Football Combination: Millwall 2, OPR 1...

Advertisements for Littlewoods, Vernons, Zettlers, and other services. Includes 'Certified Dividends' and 'This Week's Super Payout'.

Target rt

SPORTS

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dearn and Peter Davalle

The smooth road that leads to Whitehall

Perhaps it might be pitching it a bit high to say that at the end of last week's segment of the extended 40 Minutes documentary about Civil Service hopefuls being stretched on the rack of a selection board...

CHOICE

anti-nuclear candidate Timothy Cooke, for example, when the clear impression comes over that only the politically neutered stand a chance of ever being selected...

mentary, but so far as the selection procedure is concerned, there is little doubt in my own mind that all else being equal, quality of intellect takes second place to smoothness of presentation.

from thinking about other ways to run the country (Rosalind Brunt, centre for popular studies, Sheffield Polytechnic); a hype to boost tourism (Roundhead in a re-staging of the Civil War)...



Cabaret dancers in suburban Bombay: India Cabaret, on Channel 4, 10.30pm

Peter Davalle

BBC1 TV schedule listing programs such as 'Coastal AM', 'Breakfast Time with Frank Bough', 'Watchdog', 'Day to Day', 'News at 10.00', 'The Big Breakfast', 'The Big Picture', 'The Big Picture', 'The Big Picture', 'The Big Picture'.

BBC2 TV schedule listing programs such as 'Coastal', 'Design and Innovation', 'The Open University production', 'News at 10.00', 'The Big Picture', 'The Big Picture', 'The Big Picture'.

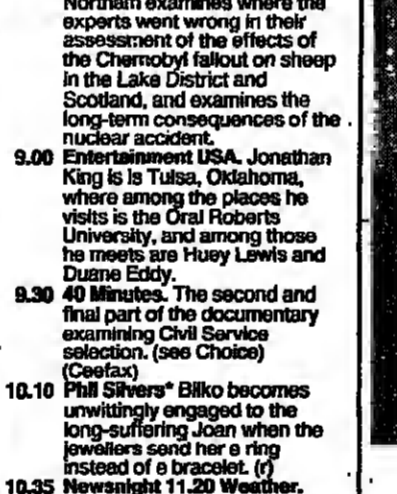
ITV/LONDON TV schedule listing programs such as '6.15 TV-am: Good Morning Britain', '6.25 Help! News of government sponsored schemes', '7.00 Emmerdale Farm', '7.30 The Outlaws', '9.00 Girls on Top', '10.00 News at Ten', '10.30 The Big Picture'.

CHANNEL 4 TV schedule listing programs such as '1.45 Their Lordships' House', '2.00 Snooker', '4.30 Countdown', '5.00 The Man in the Mirror', '6.30 Union World presented by Trevor Hyatt', '7.00 Channel 4 News', '7.50 Comment', '8.00 A Closer Encounter', '9.00 Oh Madeline', '9.30 Blood Red Roses', '10.30 India Cabaret', '11.30 Rejoice', '11.55 Relative Strangers', '12.25 Their Lordships' House'.

VARIATIONS TV schedule listing programs such as 'BBC1 WALES: 6.55pm-6.00pm Wales Today', '6.30 News at 6.30', '6.55 News at 6.55', '7.00 News at 7.00', '7.30 News at 7.30', '8.00 News at 8.00', '8.30 News at 8.30', '9.00 News at 9.00', '9.30 News at 9.30', '10.00 News at 10.00', '10.30 News at 10.30', '11.00 News at 11.00', '11.30 News at 11.30', '12.00 News at 12.00'.



Two Whitehall hopefuls: Louise Aliotti and Timothy Cooke. They face their toughest test in Forty Minutes, BBC2, 9.30pm



Edward Everett Horton in, and as, The Man in the Mirror, the Hollywood comedy on Channel 4, 5.00pm



The Man in the Mirror, the Hollywood comedy on Channel 4, 5.00pm

BACK SUFFERERS! The relief you've been waiting for. AS SEEN ON T.V. WRONG: a sagging bed or a hard bed can aggravate back pain. RIGHT: the OBAS bed gives correct support for each vertebrae, helping to bring relaxation and relief from pain. Years of experience. We are the experts. What's the answer? Who are OBAS? OBAS (BLOCK CAPITALS) Name (Mr, Mrs, Ms) Address: Phone: OBAS Dept TT 382/POST, OBAS House, London E3 4BR

SPORT

Leeds to rethink away fan curbs

By Martin Searby
Leeds United, at the centre of another row about their unruly fans after incidents at West Bromwich Albion last Saturday, are keen for the Football Association to ban their supporters from all away matches for at least two years.

United leave the door ajar but go unpunished

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Split

Hajduk Split..... 0
Dundee United..... 0.

(Dundee United win 2-0 on agg)

Dundee United were ushered politely through to the last night of the UEFA Cup last night. They were allowed to reach the quarter-finals of a European competition for the fourth time in five years only because of the astonishing incompetence of Hajduk Split in front of goal.

The Yugoslavs, who had never failed to win any of the previous 20 UEFA Cup ties staged in their own stadium, threw away that record in a manner which provoked understandable demonstrations of anger and derision on the terraces. The generosity of an otherwise talented side almost defied belief.

The loss of their three outstanding players - Siskovic and the Vujovic twins who all joined French clubs before the start of the season - has inevitably diminished Hajduk's talent. But that cannot explain their waywardness, which was even more striking than that of the national side against England at Wembley last month.

Jim McLean had won half of the battle within his own camp. Although Malpas and Sturrock were withdrawn through injury as well as Hegarty, two others of his more experienced representatives, Milne and Bannan, had been passed fit. So had McNally, who opened the scoring in the first leg, but by the narrowest of margins.

United were depleted, a feature rendered even more visible by the sight of Nancy, their captain, wearing a heavy bandage around his left knee. Their main weakness lay on either side of him and his young partner, Clark. Though the central doors were locked, the side entrances were opened with alarming frequency.

Holt and McGinnis, neither of whom was selected a fortnight ago, were United's guardians on the flanks and, bravely though they attempted to carry out their duties, the Yugoslavs played on their nerves. Within a mere half an hour, Hajduk could legitimately have not only erased United's two-goal advantage but also built a substantial lead of their own.

The source of all five openings was to be found on touchlines shrouded in Adriatic Sea mist. Asanovic started the sequence with a corner and Miljus, the only present member of the international squad, ended it by riding a couple of tackles and deliberately curving his cross away from Thompson.

Hajduk, effective in temporarily unhinging United's back four, were so ineffective when attempting to finish the moves that Thompson was not required on any occasion

to make a genuine save. The sights of Deveric, Jerolimov and Bursac, with their heads, and Bursac, with a side-foot, were all embarrassingly awry.

By the time that Bursac, released by a deflection, had nodded feebly into Thompson's arms, it had become apparent that United would be safe. Even if they did commit the odd error, it was unlikely that they would be punished more than once. Indeed, it took the Yugoslavs an hour even to threaten to reduce the overall deficit.

A couple of free kicks either side of the interval, from Clark and Redford, suggested that United, though confined largely to their own territory, might have the temerity to increase it. Yet Hajduk, abandoning all thoughts of their own security, came forward to beat Thompson three times within the closing half-hour.

Still their final touch let them down. Jerolimov aimed his header at the feet of McGinnis, who was hugging a post; Andrijasevic subsequently rumbled through from the back and almost removed the bar from its hinges with a ferocious drive; and Bursac completed a bemusingly toothless display by striking a post.

Hajduk Split: M. Presic, B. Milje, O. Selinov, Z. Andrijasevic, Z. Viscic, D. Ceko, A. Jerolimov, J. Vukobratovic, M. Bursac, O. Asanovic, D. Domic.
Dundee United: W. Thompson, G. McGinnis, J. Holt, J. McNally, J. Clark, G. Hegarty, R. Sturrock, R. Malpas, E. Barrow, G. Galtcher, I. Redford.
Referee: I. Kolner (Netherlands).

Part-timers make £50,000 in Cup run

Part-timers Chorley took a 5-0 exit from the FA Cup but were still laughing all the way to the bank after the second round replay at fourth division Preston North End on Tuesday night. Their share of the receipts from a Deepdale attendance of 16,417 took the club's Cup jackpot to an estimated £50,000 from nine matches in the competition.

Preston's top scorer, John Thomas, was the destroyer-in-chief with his third hat-trick of the season in the Cup. He struck twice in the first half as the Multipart League side clearly struggled to find their feet on the artificial pitch and hit the third with a 59th minute penalty taking his season's tally to 17. Oshor Williams and Gary Brazil completed the one-sided run that Chorley manager Ken Wright lavished praise on his players. It was our first experience on the plastic pitch and they play on it every week. It made it a completely different game but we battled for a full 90 minutes.

"Now it's back to the grass roots and the gritty of our own League. I always said that for us the FA Cup is about glory and a few quid and we got both."

The Bristol City manager, Terry Cooper, heaved a sigh of relief when his side eventually beat down a fine fighting Bath City 3-0 in their second round

Defenders back for Chelsea

The Chelsea defenders, Joe McLaughlin and Colin Pates, are set to return for Sunday's televised first division match with Liverpool at Anfield after missing last week's 4-0 home defeat by Wimbledon. McLaughlin has recovered from influenza while Pates, the captain, has shaken off a rib injury.

Brighon and Hove Albion are giving a Christmas gift to their young fans by allowing children under the age of 16 free terrace admission for their home game against Shrewsbury Town on Sunday, December 21. The club's directors hope to boost the attendance at a time when gates all over the country are notoriously thin.

Neil Warnock, the manager of the Scunthorpe club, has been named as the goals manager of the month for November. Warnock, who joined Scunthorpe in the summer, receives the award after taking the club to second place following an unbeaten sequence of six matches during the month. He will receive a cheque for £100 for his efforts.

BADMINTON

India postpones series

Six of Britain's leading badminton players will be deprived of a considerable Christmas bonus with India's announcement that it has postponed plans to stage a five-match invitation test series. Steve Baddeley, England No. 1, was one of the players invited to attend the event as part of a European select team to face the Indian national side at a series of events throughout India.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Edberg returns

Stefan Edberg will return to the Kooyong grass courts in Melbourne, where a year ago he won the Australian Open, when he leads the holders Sweden in the Davis Cup final from December 26 to 28. But the non-playing captain Hasse Olsson confirmed when he announced the team yesterday that Mats Wilander, the world No. 3, would not be playing.

Wilander, who like Edberg lost in the Grand Prix Masters semifinals in New York on Sunday, had given advance warning that he would not be available because of his marriage in South Africa the following week. Anders Jarryd, Joakim Nyström and Mikael Pernfors complete the Swedish team with Kent Carlsson and Johan Carlsson named as reserves.

Norman award

Greg Norman, the British Open golf champion, was voted Australian sportsman of the year yesterday. The 31-year-old Queensland, now based in Orlando, Florida, was also voted Australia's most popular sporting personality

On four wheels

The former world 500cc motocross champion Andre Malherbe of Belgium has his sights set on becoming the first rider to graduate to formula one motor racing. Malherbe, the world titleholder in 1980, 1981 and 1984 and runner-up in 1983, 1985 and 1986, has announced his retirement from championship moto-



Barry Hills, the new master of Manton, parades under the clock tower with Robert Sangster, and former stable jockey, Steve Cautley, who travelled down from Newmarket for a day's shooting on the estate. Sangster appointed Hills as his new trainer at Manton after sacking Michael Dickinson on November 25 (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Parkin tough in tight corner

By John Hennessy

Philip Parkin paused yesterday in the process of moving house in Houston, Texas, in preparation for his wedding next month to relieve the previous six punishing days at Palm Springs, California, that had nevertheless brought him deep satisfaction.

"The tension of the PGA qualifying school," he said, "was unbearable. You have to be there five days beforehand so that you begin to feel that things are never going to finish."

Parkin, who will be 25 tomorrow, had not only won his tournament player's card, itself a rare achievement for a British golfer, but finished third in a six-round examination which virtually guarantees him an opening in any United States tournament he chooses, at least until well past midsummer. But it was an ordeal, however serene his series of scores - 70, 70, 72, 69, 70, 70, 11 under par - might seem.

"Somebody said that Pete Dye [a renowned golf architect] was told to make the PGA West the most difficult course in the world. He might have done just that."

Curiously enough, Parkin had not been too sure of his game at the start and often

Played the best under pressure

took a one-iron off the tee. "It was steady stuff, without any mistakes, but the last day was different. I said to myself: 'Hey, I've got my card now, and I started using my driver. I hit every green and must have played the last four or five holes, when the pressure really began to mount, better than almost anyone. I was one under for those holes, and many of the rest were two or three over. My 70 was the best score among the top 25 in the pressure cooker."

Parkin, a cheerful extrovert whose ebullience happily falls short of cockiness, is at a loss to explain the difference between his golf in Europe and the United States. "Over here," he said from across the Atlantic, "I'm very solid and steady, with the right mental attitude, yet when I'm in Europe I do crazy things. I can hardly believe how badly I've done over there."

US card should give Cup edge

He played in few European tournaments in his first year as a professional, in 1984, and was 65th in the order of merit with prize money of £11,608. The figures in his first complete season were 32nd and £58,677. Although he fell only one place this year, his prize money plunged to £35,904. He thinks he will return to Europe in May a better player after the opportunities now opened up to him in the United States.

His marriage on January 17 will keep him out of the first two PGA tournaments, but he hopes to be ready for the Phoenix. Thereafter he expects to play regularly until the end of April.

His first tournament in Europe will be the Epson Grand Prix in his native Wales, at San Pierre, Chester. What happens after that will depend on the results he achieves.

"Retaining the US card is my first priority," he says, "which means getting a place in the top 125 in the order of merit. If I don't make the Ryder Cup team from the European prize-money list, my experience of American conditions may be a help when Tony Jacklin comes to consider the three places left open for his personal choice." The match will be played at Muirfield Village, Ohio, in September.

CRICKET

Rebels demolished by pace of le Roux

Cape Town (Reuter) - The rebel Australian cricketers collapsed to 15 for seven on their way to a crushing eight-wicket defeat by South Africa in the second of their one-day international matches yesterday.

The Australians, destroyed by fiery pace bowling from Garth le Roux, recovered slightly to 85 all out after 34 off their allotted 50 overs. South Africa hit the required runs with ease, reaching 86 for two in 15 overs.

The home side's second win gave them an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the four-match day-night series. The second game was washed out by torrential rain. The Australian batsmen found le Roux virtually unplayable as he took six for 21 in his 10 overs, ripping the heart out of the Australian middle order.

Past bowlers Corrie van Zyl and Brian McMillan took two wickets each as the touring side, who elected to bat after winning the toss, were thoroughly outclassed by a determined South African side.

Only a spirited ninth wicket stand of 53 by Mike Taylor and Rod McCurdy saved the Australians from total humiliation. Taylor's 36 not out

BOXING

King talk might still yield action

From Srikanth Sen
New York

The first world heavyweight title bout at Madison Square Garden for seven and a half years between Tim Witherspoon and James "Bonecrusher" Smith, tomorrow is still in the balance because of a dispute between Witherspoon and his manager, Don King.

Witherspoon's lawyer, Dennis Richard, said that he could not say whether the champion would go on with the bout until he had seen the contract today.

"I cannot say whether Mr Witherspoon will fight until I have said down with Mr King's lawyers and looked at the document. If he is obligated to fight he will fight. But more than a question of money it is about rights and lights. And when he leaves the ring he has rights and the lights are not turned out on him."

Before the arrival of his attorney, Witherspoon was quoted as telling Jose Torres, the chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, that he was "fighting but not talking."

Yesterday's exchanges at a press conference between Mr King and Mr Richard seemed to imply that the bout had every chance of going on as scheduled.

Britain's toughest footballer? Sportsweek looks at how Sheffield Wednesday turned 'skinny' Siggi Jonsson into solid British muscle.

The Real Test in Australia Is England's captain, Gattling, under threat from Emburey? Special Sportsweek Report.

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SNOOKER

Hallett tips the balance

By Sydney Friskin

The unseeded combination of Mike Hallett and Stephen Hendry defeated the seventh seeds, Neal Foulds and John Parrott, 5-1 to qualify for the semi-finals of the Hofmeister world doubles championship at Northampton yesterday.

It was a victory achieved through greater fluency of stroke and the ability to capitalize on opportunity - a virtue not apparent in the opposition, who had an uncomfortable afternoon. Two breaks of 34 and 37, both by Foulds, represented the best effort from this pair.

The outstanding player of the afternoon was Hallett, who tipped the balance with his keen eye, delicate touch and subtle tactical plays. He said: "The first frame slipped away from us but after that we put our game together. In our last match we were individuals but now we are getting together as a team." Hallett's first telling blow was his clearance of 65 compiled when six reds were left on the table. It enabled him to level at 1-1 and he sealed the fate of

the third frame by clearing from brown to black. Hendry came more into contention in the fourth frame, a red despatched from long range leading to a break of 53 which left the opposition needing two snookers. Hallett and Hendry came out of several tight corners and eventually won the frame when Hendry potted the pink.

As his confidence grew, Hendry became more assertive and his breaks of 38 and 32 put him and his partner 4-1 ahead. Foulds and Parrott sat back to watch their own destruction which was completed by Hendry with a superb break of 83. They now meet John Virgo and Kirk Stevens today.

Steve Davis and Tony Meo, the holders, put themselves in line for their fourth title with a 5-0 whitewash on Tuesday night of Silvino Francisco and his nephew, Peter Francisco.

SCORES: Quarter-finals: Hallett (Eng) and S. Hendry (Scot) bt N. Foulds and J. Parrott (Eng), 5-1. Frame scores: (Hallett and Hendry) 37-74, 29-14, 69-35, 68-23, 77-18, 63-0. Tuesday's quarter-finals: S. Davis and T. Meo (Eng) bt S. Francisco and P. Francisco (SA), 5-0. Frame scores: 57-20, 69-57, 71-58, 66-42, 68-6.

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